

Labour tables censure motion against Government

The Shadow Cabinet tabled a censure motion on the Government last night, the first of the present Parliament. It expresses "no confidence" in the Conservatives' economic and industrial policies and reflects Labour's anger over what it sees as the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social consequences.

Attack on 'disastrous' economic policies

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

To bring maximum pressure on the Government to change its "disastrous policies", the Labour Shadow Cabinet last night tabled a motion of censure which must have precedence in the parliamentary business next week.

It states bluntly: "that this House has no confidence in the economic and industrial policies of Her Majesty's Government". The attack will be led from the front bench by Mr James Callaghan and Mr Denis Healey, former Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is the first censure motion of the present Parliament and reflects the anger of Labour MPs at the effects of the Government's strict adherence to monetarist policies without regard to social and economic consequences.

At last night's Shadow Cabinet meeting, Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey listed the effects of those policies which they felt, as an official Opposition, they must highlight so that the country could be made more aware of what was happening and what must happen in the future if the Government is not turned from its present course. They spoke of industrial and economic chaos, the abnormally high interest rates, high mortgages and their effect on young families, catastrophic rises in prices, the high level of earnings, increasing unemployment

and the slowing down of investment.

There were references to recent economic surveys which showed a lack of confidence on the part of businessmen. It was claimed that the Government's strategy, far from helping the small businessman, was putting him at an even greater disadvantage.

Obviously, the Opposition spokesmen will devote much of their time criticising the Government's handling of the steel strike.

They are amazed that the Government, in the middle of a dispute in which Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, and his board, are trying to reach an agreement within the cash limits imposed by the Government, they should be undetermined by "leaks" to the effect that Sir Charles is about to be replaced by a foreign tycoon.

Although Mrs Margaret Thatcher has denied that there was any government source for the reports, there is no doubt that Sir Charles has been deeply offended.

He said on Tuesday night that he believed that Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, was the source, and blamed him for setting off speculation a few days ago that the Government was about to do a U-turn and intervene in the steel dispute. He has attacked "bungled government communications".

General strike urged by seamen's leader

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The trade union revolt against government policies went a stage further yesterday when TUC leaders were urged to mount a general strike rather than be swept aside by rank-and-file strikes of the kind being called by miners in South Wales.

The proposal was put to a meeting of the TUC Employment, Policy and Organisation Committee by Mr James Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Seamen, during a heated debate on the labour movement's response to government plans to withdraw legal immunities from secondary industrial action.

There was no vote on the idea, but in the aftermath of the announcement by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, of new curbs on union power, a growing expectation of serious conflict was reported by several members of the committee.

Union leaders are to seek an early meeting with Mr Prior to make their protests known, and if representations are ignored, the employment committee will refuse to have any further dealings with the Government.

"What's the use of a dialogue with the deaf?" asked one general secretary last night.

A confidential policy paper on the Prior amendments to the Employment Bill on secondary strikes and lock-outs approved at the meeting accuses the

Government of "edging its way by bit to a legal structure very similar to the Industrial Relations Act, 1971".

The TUC argues: "Under such a law, notions of solidarity and sympathetic support will receive short shrift from the judiciary".

The first and most dangerous proposals tabled by the Secretary of State for Employment are "even more fundamental than those contained in the original Bill". And Government intentions to publish a Green Paper on legal immunities for industrial action later this year suggest further restrictions.

In their detailed attack on the Prior amendments, Congress House industrial relations experts say: "The proposals in the working paper are very complex and have overlapping effects. In essence, they sharply reduce existing trade union immunities by two legalistic devices."

"The first and most dangerous approach narrows the application of the existing formula in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute". The second withdraws "immunity" from certain types of action involving interference with certain commercial contracts.

"The new legalistic devices designed to restrict the negotiating strength of trade unions in modern society—a society in which the power of employers increases every day."

BL workers in 10-1 vote against strike

From Clifford Webb
Birmingham

On a bitterly cold, mist-shrouded evening, 12,000 BL Longbridge workers yesterday voted by 10-1 against a strike to secure the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson, the communist shop steward's leader who had urged them to disrupt the recovery plan formulated by Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman.

A delighted Sir Michael heard the news eight miles away in Birmingham, where he was about to address a meeting of 800 industrialists. He told them: "Uncertainty about the future of BL is one of our biggest problems. But there was no uncertainty this morning about our Longbridge employees' determination to stay at work."

"That news is going to spread like wild fire through the country and it will make a big difference to our 'Buy British' sales campaign."

Before the Longbridge workers' mass meeting a confident Mr Robinson said he was happy to leave his future in the hands of his fellow workers. When a sea of hands ended his reign as the single most powerful shop steward in British industry he shook his head in disbelief.

As he climbed from the back of a lorry serving as the platform for speakers he blamed the media for conducting a sustained campaign against him. Surrounded by a few dozen grim-faced supporters who justified reporters, he said: "Our members have made the wrong decision here today. They will live to regret it for the rest of their lives. In the fullness of time they might even seek to canonise me as a saint."

He said he had no plans to seek another job and there must now be consideration about his ability to find employment. "I wasn't expecting this," he said. "I have not thought about what I should do in the event of a rejection."

However, he said he might seek election as full-time union official, probably by contesting the Midlands seat on the national executive at present held by Mr Ken Cope, a member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' three-man inquiry team which found that he had been wrongfully dismissed.

It was apparent from the time workers began to gather in the natural amphitheatre provided by Cofon Park playing fields, adjoining Longbridge, that the anti-Robinson feeling was not only widespread but, unusually for men holding moderate views, organized.

Several groups composed of 500 to 600 men carrying placards declaring "Out with Robbo" were seen. The first speaker, Mr Benson, secretary of the UEW's Birmingham West district committee which recommended strike action, was subjected to incessant booing. The same noisy disapproval greeted the other speakers.

Mr Barker, the Transport and General Workers' Union full-time official responsible for Longbridge, Mr William Jordan, Midlands divisional organizer of the AUEW and Mr Jack Adams, chairman of the Longbridge joint stewards' committee.

All attempted to make the point that a vote against strike action would be a blow to the whole trade union movement. Finally Mr Robinson moved to the microphone. He was greeted with a shower of missiles which included large rubber washers and a few smaller metal ones. They were thrown high into the air and landed harmlessly around him.

As he began to speak a group several hundred strong near the centre began to sing: "Go home, you bum". Another group chanted: "Work, work, work."

When the voting was taken less than 1,000 of the estimated 12,000 to 14,000 present put their hands up for a strike. The counter-vote was estimated by most observers to be a majority of at least 10-1.

The unexpected size of the anti-strike vote came as a shock to both sides.



Pickets and police clash outside Sheerness Steel.

Siege of Sheerness peters out and the plant carries on

From Nicholas Timmins
Sheerness

The siege of Sheerness petered out yesterday with the town's steel plant still rolling and its work force evidently determined to work on.

About 1,300 pickets and 1,000 police descended on the Kent port, in the Isle of Sheppey, most of them being down on a day that saw 21 arrests with five pickets taken to hospital after a series of sporadic incidents, some of them violent.

No lorries attempted to enter the plant, although company employees said 2,000 tonnes of steel were moved out overnight. The feared clash between townswomen, steelworkers' wives and the pickets was averted when the wives' organizers agreed to please from the police and the steel company not to mount their counter-picket. Instead they marched round the town their ranks swelling to almost 1,000; shopkeepers and passers-by applauded, and the few pickets in the streets at the time jeered.

Coachloads of steelworkers from all over Britain, including about 100 women, tracked down the town's steel plant, which was being guarded by 350 Kent miners. About 500 police were deployed at a time to control the crowd.

Some steelworkers complained bitterly of over-reaction by some police officers after a series of clashes from which five people were taken to hospital with sprains, bruises and, in one case, a cut head. All were discharged after treatment.

One of the 21 arrested people was a woman and at least three were charged with assaulting the police.

Trouble started at 6.30 am as

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Police chiefs happy with law
Welsh miners poised to strike
Picketed pickets of Barnsley
SSC deadline is deferred

Police forced pickets back from the plant's access road, which was closed throughout the day. Two arrests were made and a couple of women pickets were knocked over and cut in the crush.

Later, eight local farmers bearing "right to work" placards clashed with the steelworkers, two receiving a blooded forehead and a cut head as their wooden placards hit them. Serious trouble almost erupted as the cold dawn bore pickets set off round the back streets near the steel plant. A van carrying three men drove at speed through the column before being forced to stop by an oncoming vehicle. Pickets rocked the van and tried to drag out the driver, who was hurling abuse at them, before police intervened.

A can, some fruit and a placard being thrown at the police in the middle. The worst incident occurred as pickets attempted to march into the town past a police cordon. Seven arrests were made and three people taken to hospital, including Mrs Penny Jackson, from Scunthorpe, who claimed police dragged her down. "They kicked my head and dragged me by the hair along the floor," she said.

A reporter on the scene said, however, that she knocked her head against a wall as she fell in the crush and police went to help her. "There was no

question of her being dragged by the hair."

Some of the pickets, veterans of Hadfields, wearing stickers saying: "Hadfields massacre, 14-2-80. We were there," claimed the police over-reacted.

Mr Ian Marfles, from Corby, said: "I have been on picket lines all over the country and never seen the police react the way they have here."

Mr Michael Gibson, assistant Chief Constable of Kent, in charge of the operation, said no formal complaints had been made. If they were they would be investigated.

Mr Brian Connolly, the south-east strike coordinator, said that in 99 per cent of cases police behaviour had been good. He was checking complaints by some of his pickets.

The besieged steel plant used its workers in at 4 am before the pickets arrived and changed its shift pattern to allow incoming workers to arrive as and when they could. Despite the early atmosphere of potential violence, tension lessened after midday, although some arrests were made as the pickets headed for their coaches at 4 pm.

By 5 o'clock lorries were again moving through the plant gates.

Mr Connolly, however, denied the day's effort had been a failure. "We have managed to show people working inside here what trade unionists from all over the country, including Kent, think of them."

He said a round-the-clock picket would be mounted later. "Our intention is still to shut the plant down by depriving it of its raw materials," he said, but there were no immediate plans for a further mass picket.

Soviet officers meet secretly on deepening role in Afghanistan

From Robert Fisk
Kabul, Feb 20

The Russians are still in Afghanistan. And in spite of the expiry today of President Carter's deadline for the Soviet Army's withdrawal from the country, they seem poised for an even more active military involvement in the war against the Afghan rebels. Especially along the border with Pakistan.

Six senior Soviet Army officers have just held a secret meeting here in Kabul with the Afghan Minister of the Interior to decide how they should combat the increasing threat from the *mohajeddin* guerrillas who virtually surround the city.

For days at a time, Jalalabad has been cut off from the capital—the main road to Kabul is so unsafe that the Russian officers, together with the Minister, had to be brought to Jalalabad by helicopter.

Soviet ground troops appear to be committed to the battle against the rebels near the Pakistan frontier for the first time since the Russian military intervention in December.

Even Mr Saad Mohammad Gulabzai, the Minister, was conferring with the six Russians, all of whom were in uniform. Soviet troops drove ten T-62 tanks through the centre of Jalalabad, the first time they have appeared outside the barracks on the east of the city.

They trundled past the entrance to the heavily-guarded Spinghar Hotel where the Russians and the Afghan Minister were in conclave in the lounge, and drove off in the direction of Sukh Radd, a rebel-held village seven miles from the city.

Heavy firing could be heard from the hamlet about an hour later and Soviet helicopters, armed with rockets and machine-guns, raced low over the hotel a few minutes later, heading in the same direction.

No statement was issued about the Spinghar conference, nor was it expected that news of the meeting would become known, but the Russians and the Afghan security officers who accompanied them from Kabul happened to have chosen a hotel in which the only two guests were the correspondents of *The Times* and *The Guardian*.

We watched them arrive, escorted by security police wearing riot visors, who erected belt-fed machine-guns on tripods upon bar tables around the hotel's garden. One of the Afghan officers asked why he and his colleagues had been sent to the city replied in Farsi: "We have come to kill". No one can be any doubt of the new and increased climate of the war around Jalalabad. Mines now explode daily.

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Donor heart had fault, coroner says

By John Roper

Mrs Dorothy Hayward, Britain's first woman recipient of a heart transplant, died because there was a fault in the donor heart which could not have been detected without cutting it open, Mr John Burton, the West London coroner, said yesterday.

The coroner, who held an inquiry into the death of Mrs Hayward's death, said hours after the transplant operation at Harefield Hospital, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, that the post-mortem examination showed that there was no mishap in the operation.

Examination had shown that there was an area of abnormality in the septum, lying between the lower chambers of the heart.

It was not possible to say at this stage that the fault was connected with the injury to the donor, who died in a motor accident. It would explain why the heart worked well at first but failed a few hours later.

The donor heart was removed by Mr Magdi Yacoub, the consultant surgeon who leads the Harefield team, under the guidelines laid down at all times medical transplant teams must be independent of doctors treating a potential donor. But once the brain death of the donor has been certified by two independent doctors, the removal of an organ by a surgeon who will transplant it to the recipient is accepted as good practice.

Fund for orphan: A trust fund Hayward, aged 12, the daughter of Mrs Hayward (the Press Association reports).

Mrs Gandhi opponents losing hopes for freedom

From William Frankel
Delhi, Feb 20

Is India moving towards dictatorship? Mr Charan Singh, the former Prime Minister in the first of the end of democracy in the country under his successor, Mrs Indira Gandhi. Hopes that she may have learned from the past have been dissipated during her first weeks in office, he says.

Sitting in his large, sparsely furnished house, Mr Charan Singh spoke warily, his soft voice often fading into inaudibility. But the vigour of his message was in startling contrast.

She is hungry for power and has an overwhelming ambition. There are so many problems here and her political approach to solve them will lead to dictatorship. She will do away with the constitution to give herself dictatorial power. When I asked why he thought so, he replied simply: "She is made that way."

Mrs Gandhi's aunt, Mrs Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Nehru's sister who has held many high offices of state in India, was equally disturbed by the actions of Mrs Gandhi's return to power last month.

"Every suspicion I had of Indira is gradually being confirmed," she said. The return to power of the strong-arm men of Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son, appalled Mrs Pandit, as did Mrs Gandhi's

Continued on page 8, col 7

Mr Prior defends his 'middle way'

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

In passionate defence of his "middle way" reforms of trade union law, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, last night said it was a "tragedy" for our country that politicians were so divided between those who wanted fierce action and those who wanted nothing done.

Appearing at what turned out to be a dramatic session of the Commons Select Committee on Employment, Mr Prior faced his toughest challenge from right-wing Conservatives.

Mr John Goss, MP for Barnet Hendon North, and champion of the Grumwick company's defiance of picketing, provoked Mr Prior to impassioned declarations of the need to do what was right.

Asking whether Mr Prior was

afraid to go further than his Employment Bill proposals because it might cause a general strike, Mr Goss suggested that if this was so the man on the Clapham omnibus might vote to "cowardice" or "giving in to threats of blackmail" or "abdication".

Mr Prior started quietly in repudiation. But his voice rose rapidly as this colour deepened as he retorted that the man on the omnibus expected those who led it to help unite the country not to divide it further. It would do the country no good, he said, if he led them into possible civil disobedience and further strikes.

It might be easier and require less effort to be tougher than he had been in his proposals. But he declared: "Sometimes it requires courage to stand against the stream. I believe I

am standing against the stream". Many wanted to go further, but Mr Prior argued that would have been wrong, it would not work and not be in the interests of the country. The man on the omnibus would be the first to complain if they got it wrong.

Mr Prior came to the committee appealing for an "all party approach" to the law, but while Labour MPs were gentle with him, it was those who wanted no interference with present law, and so caused his dismay. He warned MPs that many people abroad were looking to see whether Britain was prepared to take the necessary steps to get its industrial relations right.

If as a result they were seen not to work then industrial democracy, indeed democracy itself, could be put at risk.

EEC rebuff to
Britain in
lamb war battle

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 20

The European Commission delivered a rebuff to Britain here by deciding not to seek, for the time being, an interim injunction from the European Court of Justice against illegal French curbs on imports of British lamb.

Mr Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, said in Brussels on Monday that the Commission would be failing in its duty as guardian of the Rome Treaty and "setting a very dangerous precedent" if a decision was not taken today. The French import controls have already been condemned once as illegal by the Court of Justice last September.

It could take up to six months for the court to pronounce again, and it is open to the Commission in the interim period to ask the court to order the French to abolish their import controls pending a final ruling. This is what Mr Walker is pressing for.

However, the Commission is reluctant to do this on the ground that it would merely advertise yet again the importance of both itself and the court when faced with a member state which simply refuses to obey the law.

Earnings rise by nearly 20 per cent

Average earnings during 1979 increased by nearly 20 per cent. The increase was described in Whitehall as a "dreadful warning to the country" and is regarded as a big setback for the Government. There is concern that pay negotiations in progress will exceed the 1979 rate and fuel inflation further. Ministers are stressing that big pay awards will increase inflation and lead to fewer jobs.

Pretoria threat

South African newspapers have carried obviously inspired reports from Pretoria that if chaos broke out in Rhodesia after the election South Africa would send troops there whether they were invited or not. Mr Botma, the Prime Minister, has denied that any South African troops are still in Rhodesia.

Iran visit delayed

The five United Nations commissioners who are to look into Iranian complaints are not now expected to arrive in Tehran until the weekend.

Bonn holds back on boycott of games

West Germany is delaying its decision on an Olympic boycott to give the Soviet Union another chance over Afghanistan. Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, said there was still plenty of time for a decision.

Labour split fear

Some moderate Labour Party politicians are predicting after a joint meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and the national executive of the party, that Labour was heading for a confrontation in the coming autumn with the distinct possibility of an irreconcilable split.

Nuclear warning

Sir Alan Cottrell, the former government chief scientific adviser, told a House of Commons select committee that the Department of Energy decision to use American-designed pressurised water reactors in Britain was wrong.

Aeolian Sky cleared

Canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed up on South Coast beaches did not come from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky, it was confirmed.

Immigration rules for daughters modified

Revised immigration rules seek to set out clearly that women born of British parents who may have been working overseas at the time of birth will not be subjected to restrictions that are being placed on the daughters of immigrants. The original proposals had been criticized by many MPs.

Pornography meeting: Mrs Whitehouse tells Home Secretary that she wants report on obscenity and film censorship to be rejected.

Local government: Associations submit plans to Mr Heseltine with the aim of avoiding the Government's proposed block grant system.

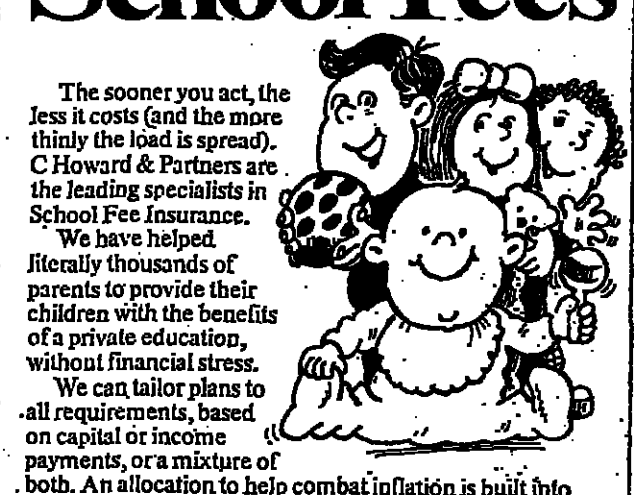
Irish border security: Mr Haughey tells the Dail that secret deal negotiated between Mr Lynch and Mrs Thatcher will be continued.

Netherlands: Dutch on verge of Cabinet crisis after Finance Minister resigns.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 12, 25; La Creme de la Creme, 26; Personal, 27, 28.

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HOME NEWS

Ministerial impatience at delays in planning

By John Young
Planning Reporter

In an effort to speed planning procedures, the Department of the Environment is to publish regular details of the number of appeals it receives and the time it takes to deal with them.

The department will also ask local authorities to follow its example and provide similar information on planning applications.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, emphasised his impatience with the long delays that have become an abiding feature of the system. The rapid release of publicly owned land to the private sector was particularly important for inner urban area regeneration, he said.

A register of all land owned by nationalised industries, as proposed in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill, was a vital step in the process. Already a special survey conducted by the department and Liverpool City Council had identified more than 1,000 acres of unused and derelict land, which was being studied site by site.

At the end of our examination, we will know more about the problems of coping with urban decay than anyone has ever known before," he stated. "That is because, for the first time, we will have details of who owns the land, why it is derelict and so on."

Mr Heseltine also made it clear that, in his view, money provided by the Government for urban renewal had been spread too thinly over too many projects. He wanted to see it concentrated on specific schemes, which would vary considerably from one place to another.

"But it is important to recognize that there is only a limited role for the Government," he added.

He also affected surprise at the angry response from local authorities to his plans to limit their expenditure, and suggested that the answer lay largely in reducing staffs. His department employed 5 per cent fewer people than when he came to office nine months ago, yet all he was asking local authorities to do was to make a 2½ per cent cut over two years.

Local authorities offer plans to Mr Heseltine to avoid proposed block-grant system

By Christopher Warnham
Local Government Correspondent

Plans for financing local government, designed to avoid the introduction of the Government's proposed new block grant system, were yesterday offered to Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, by the local authority associations.

The associations were responding to Mr Heseltine's challenge that if they could come up with an alternative which satisfied the Government's objectives of overall control he would consider it seriously.

Their solution, retaining the needs and resources elements of the rate support grant which would disappear under the Government's proposals, meets Mr Heseltine's objectives. "In a way, the associations cannot," the associations state.

They are convinced that their grant and accountability proposals "can operate within the established constitutional relationships between the local government, central government and Parliament, whereas his proposals funda-

mentally alter those relationships in a manner which can only be detrimental to local and central government, and to public administration in general."

The plans have been prepared jointly by the Association of County Councils, Association of District Councils, Association of Metropolitan Councils, London Boroughs' Association and the Greater London Council.

They argue that the block grant system would encourage overspending and be too complicated.

Accordingly, the associations envisage a new system of assessing the needs of a council, taking account of its population and the groups within it.

They have not yet worked out in detail the new system, but criticize the Government's proposal for a grant expenditure worked out centrally.

"There is no way in which any centrally operated, formula-based needs assessment could ever be good enough to enable the Government to use it to specify what individual authorities ought to be spending," they say.

The associations suggest a framework in which the needs grant distribution would be based on "national" needs assessments. In that the figures would be national, and would not bear any direct relationship to the actual spending of individual authorities.

Changes would be made to the resources element of the grant, which is paid to authorities whose rateable value per head of population is below a standard national figure. At present one of the difficulties is that the more an authority spends, the more resources grant it receives. The associations would simply limit the grant by relating an authority's entitlement to its actual expenditure.

The associations urge "most strongly" that Mr Heseltine asks the grants working group to examine and exemplify their proposals, so that they can be included in the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill. Since the Bill is now in its standing committee stages, this is short if they are to force changes in it.

MPs told of role for Polytechnics

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

A clear distinction between the function of the polytechnics and that of the universities needed to be re-established, Mr Angela Rumbold, chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities, told a Commons select committee yesterday.

The uncontrolled post-Robbins expansion of higher education was regrettable, she said.

There were many students in universities who should be going to polytechnics, she said. The polytechnics had become identified in the minds of teachers and pupils as something second best to a university, whereas in fact they were intended to fulfil entirely different roles.

The universities were concerned with research and a philosophical approach to education, while the polytechnics were designed to respond more to national and local needs and should not indulge in high-level research. Unfortunately, there

had been some blurring of the edges between the work done in the two types of institution in recent years.

Representatives of both the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, who were giving evidence to the Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts, were adamant that the polytechnics and other maintained colleges and universities should remain under the control of local authorities, and wholly separate from the universities.

They agreed, however, that there was a need for a national body, including a strong local authority element, to plan and distribute funds to higher education within the maintained sector, and that a new national joint committee, consisting of members of that body and of the University Grants Committee, should be set up to help coordinate higher education across the binary line.

On overseas student fees, the

local authorities said they did not believe that any college would be at risk because of the new high fees, although some courses in subjects like engineering might have to close.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Association of Principals of Colleges, in London yesterday, Dr Rhodes Boyson, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, said that the interim measures recently introduced by the Government to rationalize higher education courses in the public sector was not at present a prelude to a rationalization of institutions. No secret master plan on college closures existed.

The Government hoped that the findings of a new ad hoc departmental committee on the unit costs of courses in different subjects would provide a base on which to take more sophisticated decisions about the future financing and planning of higher education than had been possible in the short term.



The Queen with two residents after opening the Hope Town Salvation Army hostel for women at Whitechapel, east London, yesterday.

Industrial injuries aid reviewed

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

The first review of the industrial injuries scheme since its introduction in 1948 was launched yesterday in a consultative document published by the Department of Health and Social Security. Ministers denied that the review foreshadowed any intention of abolishing the scheme, but said any changes must not involve extra cost.

"Society owes a special debt to people injured at work or to the widows of those killed at work," Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Social Security, said. The review, ordered by the previous Labour Government in the wake of the Royal Commission on Civil Liability and Compensation for Personal Injury, has been compiled by officials and does represent government policy.

The basic question posed is whether a preferential scheme is still justified in view of improved sickness and invalidity benefits since the mid-1960s. But Mr Prentice admitted that the review might conflict with government proposals to make

employers responsible for sickness benefit during the first eight weeks.

The review says a preferential scheme is still needed so long as economic circumstances rule out a comprehensive disability benefit scheme at industrial injury levels for all disabled people.

Many of the suggestions involve one group of the industrially injured gaining at the expense of others. For example, it is argued that the £11m cost of the "preference" under industrial injury benefit paid for up to 26 weeks at £2.75 more than the sickness rate, could be saved. That money could be used to bring forward, from the present 26 weeks, the date on which disability benefit becomes payable.

The £2.75-a-week differential has remained unchanged since 1966, and its value has fallen from 73 per cent above the sickness benefit level in 1948 to 15 per cent.

Apart from abolishing the benefit altogether, the review suggests it could either be increased, at a cost of £24m if 70-per-cent lead were re-established, or maintained as now.

Disability benefit is not regarded as needing much change. The review points out that a pensioner assessed as 100 per cent disabled can, under the industrial injuries scheme, draw £56.20 a week tax free, compared to 28.20 for someone with no disablement pension.

The review suggests that changes are needed in the allowances that can be paid on top of disablement pension. The special hardship allowance paid to people with less than 100 per cent disability to compensate for loss of earnings capacity contains many anomalies.

The review suggests that the allowance could end at retirement age, compensate only for half of lost earnings up to £30.40 a week, and be withdrawn where invalidity benefit is also being paid. The combined savings would total at least £50m a year, of which £45m could be spent on raising the maximum allowance.

The review questions the existence of six different rates for attendance needs under the industrial injuries scheme, helping 2,370 people, compared with the 271,000 receiving two rates of attendance allowance under the main social security scheme.

Face lift and all mod con for top end of Britain

From Ronald Faux
John o' Groats

John o' Groats, incorrectly famous as the most northerly point of the British mainland, is to have a government-sponsored face lift.

The remote village attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and has little to offer except a sense of having arrived.

There are no proper car-parking facilities, no recreational grounds, and one public lavatory in a wooden shed which is locked in winter.

The Countryside Commission for Scotland has approved grants towards the cost of acquiring land for a visitors' centre and developing a public car park and other facilities for tourists.

The improvements, announced yesterday, will be carried out by the Highland Regional Council at a cost of more than £66,000.

Local and central government authorities have for years tried to resolve what they call the "visitor reception and environmental problems" at John o' Groats which, by a thin slice of latitude, yields to Dunnet Head, a few miles to the west, as the most northerly point of the British mainland.

Mr Duncan Macleod, proprietor of the John o' Groats Hotel, said it was difficult to get the balance right between having an unspoilt village and a commercially developed tourist centre. It was hard to pin the number of visitors down, but estimates range between 300,000 and one million a year, many from overseas.

On a fine day the cliff walks and beaches absorbed the tide of tourists. In bad weather John o' Groats could become a squalid tangle of traffic where the A9 seemed to plunge into the Pentland Firth.

People who have visited both extremes of Britain complained that Land's End was more commercialized and less pleasant.

Mr Macleod, reflecting on the clutter of coaches outside his hotel and people with desperate expressions seeking to use his lavatory, welcomed the resolution of the John o' Groats "visitor reception and environmental problem".

Teacher turnover is blamed on house prices

By Our Education Correspondent

High housing costs are believed to be in part responsible for a rise in the turnover of teachers in the Greater London area, disclosed in a report published yesterday.

The report contains the results of the sixth annual survey of teacher turnover in London, carried out by the Greater London committee of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association.

In Merton and Richmond, as many as one in four secondary school teachers resigned last year from their posts last year. Merton's turnover rate for primary and secondary schools rose from 14 to 21 per cent.

Mr Richard Davies, acting director of education for Merton, said many young teachers could not afford to buy a house or flat within the borough.

Crewman tells of plea by woman as coaster sank

A survivor from the coaster Pool Fisher, which sank in the English Channel last November, told an inquest jury at Gosport, Hampshire, yesterday how the wife of another crewman said to him: "Don't leave me", as the ship went down.

Open verdicts were returned on the 13 people who died.

Mr Mark Fookie, aged 18, of Widnes, Cheshire, one of only two survivors, said the 1,100-ton ship completely keeled over in gale-force winds.

He climbed out on to the side of the vessel, where people were trying to coax Mrs Doris Carvill, aged 55, wife of the ship's chief engineer, into the water.

He went towards her, looking for a life-raft. He added: "Mrs Carvill panicked. She said: 'Don't leave me, don't leave me, stay with me'."

Mr Michael Baker, the coroner, said that a large rescue operation was launched in the rough seas when the ship sank

six miles from St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight.

Mrs Carvill's body was one of three dragged from the sea. Ten crewmen were never found, including Mr Eric Carvill, aged 60, Mrs Carvill's husband.

The other survivor, Mr Donald Crane, aged 21, of Moreton, Merseyside, said that when they left Hamburg with a cargo of potash the bow was lower in the water than usual.

He took over the steering and the ship was not handling well.

At 4 am on November 6 he was roused from his bed by Mr Terence Morgan, the bosun, of Wallasey, Merseyside, who said: "Get on deck quick. The ship is going down."

He added: "Mr Fookie and I dashed up the hatchway and I found my way out into the sea. When I resurfaced I saw the rear section of the ship sticking up out of the water."

Minister says land Act to end on March 31

By Our Planning Reporter

The Community Land Act, due to be repealed when the Local Government, Planning and Land Bill becomes law, will effectively cease to operate on March 31. Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services, yesterday said agreement had been reached with local authorities to close their community land accounts on that date.

Authorities will be required to credit to such accounts the value of all holdings acquired under the Act. They will retain half of any surplus, and the other half will be redistributed to those in deficit. The Exchequer has agreed to waive any share.

With effect from August 5, councils will no longer be required to acquire land net of development land tax. A Government guidance note states that transactions thereafter will be at full market value, and that the tax must in future be regarded as a permanent and ordinary tax on development gains.

Funeral workers reinstated

Mr Mervyn Littlejohn and Mr Paul Barnard, two funeral workers who were dismissed after their hearse, containing a body and parked on a single yellow line outside a funeral parlour in Holway, North London, was towed away by the police, have been reinstated by their employers, the London Co-operative Society.

The police have apologized for the incident, which delayed the funeral of a woman aged 82 for almost two hours.

Film wins award

The British Film Institute Award for the most original and imaginative film at the National Film Theatre in 1979 has been won by *Sürü* (The Herd), produced and written by Yilmaz Güney, from Turkey.

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COUNTRY LIFE

WILDLIFE NUMBER



Wildlife Number

NATURE IN FOCUS

David Tomlinson examines the changing approach to wildlife photography, and the impact of modern cameras and techniques in this challenging field.

GORILLAS AT HOME

John Sparks writes about the most impressive of the great apes, the mountain gorilla, and the threats to its survival in the highlands of Central Africa.

HARBINGERS OF THE CHANGING YEAR

L. Hugh Newman discusses the behaviour of butterflies in spring, ranging from the first to emerge, the brimstone, to the localised Duke of Burgundy fritillary.

BADGER WATCH

Jonathan S. Lloyd records his observations of a Midlands' badger family, and tells how the badgers he and his wife were watching came to accept their presence.

COUNTRY LIFE

On sale now

For one tunnel tunnel

Mr Fowler—There are great advantages to a Channel Tunnel. What most important however is that we get the right Channel Tunnel. As Mr Albert Costain (Folkestone and Hythe, C)—Will the minister see that the Calmarcor report is available to us now so we can ask intelligent questions on it when it

statement is made?
Mr Fowler—Professor Cairncross is to give personal advice to me as minister. I hope in my statement to give the maximum advice to the House on which MPs can reach their own conclusions.
Mr Tam Dalyell (West Lothian Lab)—Has the question been raised on the steel aspects of the Channel Tunnel.
Mr Fowler—This is one of the things we will continue to look at. Mr John Prescott, an Opposition spokesman on transport (Kingston upon Hull, East Lab)—In the

Community document of transport infrastructure projects, the future rail projects did not include the Channel Tunnel. Has the minister drawn this to the attention of the Council of Ministers.

Mr Fowler—The infrastructure instrument is under discussion and has a long way to go. European finance would be one of the points we would have very much in mind.

I hope at some stage the Opposition Front Bench will make their position on the Channel Tunnel unequivocally clear.

prices and the end of subsidies of food mountains, and a promise from the Government that the common agricultural policy will be a satisfactory intervention system and a satisfactory beef-cow system which would have the confidence of British beef producers.

It is better and fairer to see that consumers within the Community are subsidized rather than those in the Community.

Mr. Walker: The position of the British Government has been firm. We are against providing subsidized foods to the Soviet Union. We have pursued a consistent Union policy. Our predecessors a great deal of subsidized butter went to the Soviet Union.

When the price fixing last year, we obtained the best butter subsidy ever for the British consumer.

Mr. Geraint Howells (Cardigan, L.):—When does the minister believe we will be able to reform the

No simple answer to motorway SPREAD

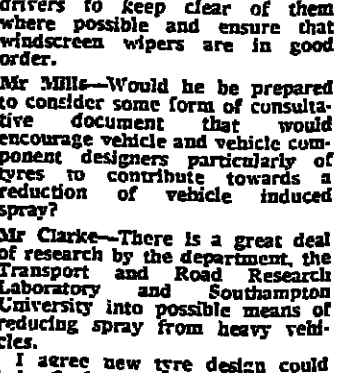
Spray

No design solution had yet been found to reduce the danger of lorry-induced spray on motorways, but a great deal of research was being carried out, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport, said during a debate in the House of Commons.

Mr Ian Mills (Meriden, C) had asked if he was satisfied with the department's encouragement of measures to reduce the danger of accidents caused by lorry-induced spray on wet motorways.

Mr Clarke (Rushcliffe, C)—We have a lot to look for. There are more effective ways of reducing spray, but there is no simple design solution.

The only obvious but effective remedy is for drivers of heavy vehicles to keep their speed down in wet weather and for other



Arsenic & old lace

Mr. David Stoddart (Swindon, Lab.)—Spray from heavy lorries is most dangerous and causes many accidents and certainly a lot of fear among motorists. Would he please give this priority in his research?

£40m saving
Arrangements had been made for International Computers Ltd to maintain certain computers in use at the C...

An estimated saving of some 40m or more up to 1985 was expected from this life extension

Maintenance

Later, Mr Clarke said that the Ministry would shortly be able to invite tenders for the widening of

He explained that the challenge of a compulsory purchase order and recently said they would not proceed with their notice of

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Abstract

[illegible]

HOME NEWS

Review of suspected child-abuse cases called for in report on girl killed by drug-taking mother

From Arthur Osman
Leicester

The report of an independent inquiry into the death in Leicester of a year-old girl at the hands of her mother said yesterday: "The tragedy was allowed to occur without anyone ever doing anything effective to prevent it."

It said there was a need to review procedures in Leicester-shire for cases of suspected, or actual, child abuse; some guidance documents for professional workers were "woolly and verbose"; existing literature needed radical revision; all professional workers should undertake training on how to deal with such cases.

The child, Carly Taylor, was a twin and died in July 1978. Her injuries included a fractured skull. Her mother, Mrs Shirley Taylor, now aged 28, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment last July for manslaughter and ill-treatment of the child.

The inquiry, under the chairmanship of Mr Richard Millard, former Clerk of Buckinghamshire County Council, said both the mother and father "appear to have been on drugs most of the material time and the home conditions varied from poor to squalid. Her mother was reputed to have a violent temper; from time to time, and particularly in the closing months of Carly's life, relatives, friends and others expressed concern about her condition."

and spoke of having seen

bruises. "The social worker, health visitor and probation officer principally involved, however, did not in the main recognize signs of ill-treatment or neglect," did not act as the circumstances demanded and were not convinced that she was in any immediate danger, although both twins were placed on the local register of children at risk very shortly before Carly's death."

Discussing the damp, cold-water flat where the family lived, described as a "drug square," the report said that a health visitor had told the inquiry that "merely because people sleep on mattresses on the floor she did not regard this as unsuitable in the circles in which the Taylors moved. We also asked her about the drug aspect and again, to our surprise, she said she had never seen any sign of drugs but added that she had never knowingly been in contact with people who were misusing drugs."

The twins were discharged from hospital to this flat and "there was known to a number of people, but not widely to any one of them, a collection of factors which made it at least questionable whether the twins should have been discharged home at that stage."

The husband was remanded in custody shortly afterwards and a senior social worker became involved. "It is incomprehensible to us that he did

not then immediately set in train the calling of a case conference and possibly the entry of the twins' names on the non-accidental injury register (which, incidentally, he had checked himself), as the indications that these twins were at risk of child abuse were strong."

Shortly before the twins' first birthday, the social worker was advised by his assistant director that there were indications of potential child abuse and that the case should be on the register. He did nothing about it, however, for 13 days; two weeks later the child was dead.

In the latter period a neighbour had also reported what she called battering, with Carly being made a scapegoat. The twins were found to be filthy, hungry and crawling around in vests, with the mother in a "strange mood."

The report said about the documents on procedure: "We frankly regard some of the documents as being verbose and woolly. We felt that it would be extremely difficult for any worker in the field, faced with a case of suspected non-accidental injury for the first time, to decide quickly from any of these documents what he or she should do."

Leicestershire County Council and the Area Health Authority (Teaching), which jointly commissioned the inquiry, said the procedures had been reviewed internally since the child's death, and this would consider after the inquiry's recommendations.



Photograph by Bill Warhurst

Stolen paintings, antique silver and furniture worth £200,000, seized by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad, on show yesterday at a police store in north London. The owners could live anywhere in Britain, the police said. With the stolen property is PC Neil Weir.

Teacher in fear of Ripper loses self-defence plea

From Our Correspondent
Bradford

A Bradford schoolteacher lost her fight at Bradford Crown Court yesterday to establish that women who feared attack by the Yorkshire Ripper could carry a knife for self-defence.

A jury of eight men and four women unanimously decided that the night that Sarah Dixon, aged 27, was arrested with a

small sheath knife in her pocket she was carrying an offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

Miss Dixon, of Newburn Road, Bradford, an address described in court as streets away from the scene of the latest Ripper murder, was given a three-month prison sentence, suspended for a year. She was also ordered to pay £75 towards her legal aid.

Mr John Henham, the recorder, told her: "Had you threatened anyone or exposed this knife at any time I would have sent you straight to prison."

Mr David Gipton, for the prosecution, said that Miss Dixon was arrested by officers who were policing a National Front meeting in Bradford on April 30 last year. She told the policemen who arrested her:

"I always carry it. It is for protection."

He said the prosecution contended that an offensive weapon could be lawfully carried for self-defence only if there was an imminent threat of violence.

Miss Dixon, who pleaded not guilty, said in evidence: "I carried it because I was worried about the Ripper attacks in this area. I did not carry it for any other reason."

Scatter my ashes in goal, student wrote

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

A Nottingham County supporter wrote to the club saying that he was going to commit suicide and asking that his ashes should be scattered in the goalmouth.

The club secretary called the police. But Iain Cameron, aged 19, a Manchester University student, of Cornwell Road, Arnold, Nottingham, had been killed by a train at Levenshulme, Manchester.

It happened on Monday after he disappeared from his university home at Hulme Hall, Oxford Place, Manchester.

The letter said: "In a few days time this club should be approached by my parents with a request for my ashes to be scattered in the goalmouth at Meadow Lane. This is one of my last wishes before I commit suicide."

"I have been a Nottingham County supporter for more than nine years and a season ticket holder for the last five seasons. So I feel that this request is fully justified and I would be extremely grateful if the management of the club would grant it."

A club official said: "We have no objection to carrying out this request if asked to do so by the family."

Neighbours said Mr Cameron's family intended to comply with the request. One neighbour said: "Iain was a clever boy with a bright future."

An inquest is to be held in Manchester.

Mr Scott quits his cottage

Mr Norman Scott, the chief prosecution witness in the Evans-Thorpe trial, has changed his mind and quit the remote cottage on Dartmoor as he was ordered to by a court.

The cottage at Chagford was deserted yesterday, 24 hours after he said he would stay there for at least another week. He was given until midnight on Tuesday to leave after a judge at Exeter County Court heard that he had persistently fallen behind with his rent.

Mr Scott, aged 39, a former male model, shouted through the door to callers on Tuesday: "I'll be here for a week or two yet."

Yesterday, the only sign of life around the empty cottage and stable was a chicken.

Mrs Audrey Leslie, his landlady, said from her home in the Isle of Wight: "We have not any personal grudge against the man. It is just that we cannot afford to have him there and he cannot afford to be there."

"Mr Scott tells me he is going to be living with friends in the locality for a couple of months."

Refugee boy wins public school place

From Our Correspondent
Colchester

A Vietnamese refugee aged 11 has won a scholarship to an English public school.

Richard Chau could hardly speak a word of English when he fled Vietnam with the "boat people" 18 months ago. After only 12 months at a British primary school, he has won the Archbishop Harnett Scholarship to Chigwell School in Essex.

Richard still faces another hurdle before he can take his place at the 350-year-old public school in September. The scholarship covers only tuition, and Richard's parents, who live at Heybridge, near Maldon, Essex, cannot afford the £1,000 a year boarding fees.

Mr Roger Finch, head of Heybridge primary school, said yesterday: "We are desperately hoping someone will come up with the money to send Richard to Chigwell."

"He is a very bright little boy, who has worked extremely hard to win this chance. It will be a tragedy if he cannot take advantage of the scholarship."

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Accidental death verdict on Lebanese terrorist

An Arab terrorist may have been holding the bomb that killed him in his London hotel room on January 17, an inquest heard yesterday.

The man, whose identity has not been confirmed, was staying at the Mount Royal Hotel, Bryanston Street, in central London.

Dr Michael Crompton, pathologist, said: "Everything indicated that this bomb went off close to the front of his body and he may well have been holding it."

Mr Paul Knapman, deputy coroner for Westminster, re-

cording a verdict of accidental death, said: "I am sure that I feel a little sense of remorse at his death."

He had been told by Det Supt Bernard Hodggets, of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad, that the man registered with the British passport as Mohamed Solani, but a Beirut newspaper named him as a Lebanese preparing bombs for Israeli targets.

Mr Hodggets said there was cause to believe that he was engaged in terrorist activities. A second bomb exploded 43 hours after the blast in room 556.

10-year ban on drunk skipper of grounded ship

From Our Correspondent
Great Yarmouth

The master of a rig stand-by ship who was drunk when the vessel ran aground on a sandbank off the Norfolk coast, had his skipper's certificate of competency suspended for 10 years at a Department of Trade inquiry at Great Yarmouth yesterday.

John William Raven, aged 38, of Grimsby, was found guilty of misconduct and drunkenness in the 11 charges brought against him.

Mr Dennis Roberts, Home Office nautical assessor, said the inquiry was satisfied that at the time of the grounding of the Lowestoft vessel, Willa, Raven had collapsed in a drunken slumber in his cabin, leaving the bridge unmanned.

Mr Roberts emphasised that the blame did not lie entirely with the skipper.

Seaman jailed for stealing \$2½m in notes

A bank was forced to re-design part of its currency after a German seaman stole \$2.5m, Mr Roy Amlot, for the prosecution, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Heinz Graul, aged 29, was serving in the German ship *Pallas* at Millwall Dock, London, in August, 1978, when he took on 40 cases of freshly minted \$50 notes belonging to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

The notes had been printed in Surrey, and were bound for the bank in Port of Spain, Trinidad, counsel added. "The sterling value of each case which contained \$2.5m was about £600,000," he said.

Herr Graul, who admitted stealing a case of the money after it was loaded and hiding it in his cabin, was jailed for three years by Judge McKinnon, QC.

Criticism of a hot potato by Sainsbury vindicated

By Robin Young
Consumer Affairs
Correspondent

The Advertising Standards Authority has vindicated a claim by J. Sainsbury Ltd that the most widely grown variety of potato in Britain, the grey and land Crown, turns grey and crumbly when boiled, goes soggy when mashed, and makes very poor chips.

Sainsbury, which does not sell Pentland Crown, produced independent tests to substantiate their criticism of the variety, which was rated ninth of 11 varieties tested. The Advertising Standards Authority's report of cases

investigated last December shows two complaints upheld against special-offer advertisements by The Observer newspaper, and one against Selective Marketplaces Ltd.

The Observer was criticized for quoting a higher price for a book as its "shop price" when it was available in bookshops at what the advertisement called the newspaper's special price, and for advertising as Guernsey sweaters garments that were manufactured in Leicester.

Selective Marketplaces was criticized for misdescribing cashmere sweaters.

HOME NEWS

Border security deal will be continued, Mr Haughey tells Dail

From Our Correspondent

Dublin. Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, told the Dail in Dublin yesterday that the secret security arrangements agreed between Mrs Thatcher and his predecessor, Mr Jack Lynch, after the murder of Lord Mountbatten last August, would not be changed.

Questioned about his speech to the Fianna Fail annual conference on Saturday, Mr Haughey said that no plans had been made for the two governments in Dublin and London to hold talks on Northern Ireland.

He expected, however, to meet Mrs Thatcher in Brussels at an EEC summit next month and expected there would shortly be a meeting in London

between Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Mr Humphrey Atkins, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Mr Haughey told the Dail that a copy of his speech had been sent to Mrs Thatcher. His government would also continue its international pressure in support of talks by sending the text of the speech to its embassies and instructing Irish representatives to promote Irish government policy.

Although he repeated that the first priority of his Government was to deal with the question of Northern Ireland, Mr Haughey did not display any hawkish sentiments yesterday despite Opposition attempts to persuade him into calling for British withdrawal from the north.

Peace People man is given back his job

From Annabel Ferriman

Belfast. Divisions within the Peace People, the movement that sprang into being in 1976 after the death of three children on a Belfast street, became more apparent yesterday with the statement that the Peace People Company is to retain the services of Mr Peter McLachlan, the movement's projects officer.

The Peace People's 12-man executive dismissed Mr McLachlan as its chairman and projects manager 10 days ago and later issued a statement that it did not want the money to pay his £8,000-a-year salary.

But the Peace People Company, which was set up in 1977 with responsibility for a large part of the movement's finance, said yesterday that as it was responsible for appointing and paying Mr McLachlan it would decide his future.

The company's nine directors, of which three are members of the Peace People's executive, said that there were genuine difficulties of judgment as to where the executive's authority lay. The company intended to meet and discuss the matter with the executive as soon as possible.

For peace: Cardinal Thomas O'Fiaich, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, will preach at a service of prayer for peace in Northern Ireland at Westminster Cathedral on Sunday, March 16 (the Press Association reports). It will be his first public engagement in England.

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, will lead the service, which will be attended by church leaders of other denominations.



Mr Fox leaving a multi-terrain vehicle during his inspection tour of the Isle of Wight.

Aeolian Sky cleared over 13 lethal canisters

From Frances Gibb

Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. Thirteen canisters of lethal arsenic trichloride washed ashore on south-coast beaches did not come from the sunken Greek freighter Aeolian Sky, it was confirmed yesterday.

At the time the 16,000-ton ship sank 12 miles east of Portsmouth on November 4, the canisters were on the shelf of a German company, Merck of Darmstadt, and did not leave there until November 28, judging by their serial numbers.

The official confirmation of what has always been maintained by the P & O Steamship Company, which chartered the Aeolian Sky, came from the German company on the day that Mr Marcus Fox, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, was visiting the Isle of Wight to

assess the danger of the sunken ship's cargo. One theory is that the 13 canisters were swept off one of the 400 cargo ships using the English Channel each week.

The news will provide some comfort to the islanders, who told the minister that fears about the cargo were threatening their tourist trade, which brings in £10m a year, and Europe's oyster trade.

At a meeting of more than 30 officials from Hampshire and Dorset County Councils, and from every maritime local authority from the Devon border to the Sussex border, Major A. J. Parker, chief fisheries officer of the Southern Sea Fisheries District, said that the island was the breeding ground for the whole of Europe's oysters. The industry could not afford to be killed by pointless rumours.

Since the Aeolian Sky sank 1,066 canisters have been swept ashore, including the arsenic trichloride, 120 aerosols of footrot spray, 210 of disinfectants, 30 of insect oil and various other chemicals, the bulk of which were made by ICI and loaded on to the ship at Hull.

The ship is also known to have been carrying some noxious chemicals such as nitric and sulphuric acid and arsenic trioxide. So far the daily operation of clearing the canisters from the island's beaches has cost an estimated £25,000 or £3,000 a week.

Six teachers have volunteered to leave their schools and work 13 hours a day for £5 an hour identifying chemicals from the canisters in their school laboratories. Wearing safety suits as protection against splashes they have joined teams of firemen wearing air-

WEST EUROPE

France trumpets solar plan but whispers about nuclear projects

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 20. Scarcely a day goes by without France announcing yet another move towards ending its dependence on oil energy. Yesterday came the optimistic report of the two-year-old Solar Energy Commission today the controversial authority has been given to start two nuclear reactors at Gravelines in the north and Tricastin in the Drôme.

The solar energy report was presented by a suitably beaming M. Henry Durand, the commission president, who announced proudly that France was the second world power when it came to sun power and that it intended to stay this way.

Between now and the end of the century the solar energy industry in France is supposed to create 80,000 jobs and to produce enough power to end the need for 15 million tonnes of imported oil. In that time the plan is for one French home in four will be solar heated, while in 1980 the commission's Frs400m (£44m) budget will enable army barracks to start being heated and the number of solar water heaters in the country to double to 40,000.

The decision to press ahead with the two nuclear reactors was not announced at a joyful press conference, but in a short note from M. André Girard, the Minister for Industry. While the French Government is proud of its nuclear programme, strong environmental lobbies force it to be rather quiet in talking about the subject.

This is particularly the case

with the two reactors now being charged because both developed cracks in the course of construction, which caused vociferous concern to be expressed by the environmentalists as well as provoking union action against the projects. Equipment to monitor the cracks has been installed beneath the cladding.

Though France is well positioned to benefit from solar power in the south of the country, the northern areas cannot do so and the chief substitute for oil-produced energy in Government planning is nuclear. President Mitterrand's election last month saw 1985 more than half of France's electricity would be nuclear generated.

At the same time the Government realises that nuclear power is generally unpopular, which is why consumers living in the vicinity of these power stations are to get a 15 per cent reduction in their tariffs. Some ecologist groups argue that this proves the Government knows that its nuclear stations are dangerous. Support for this idea might seem to come from a circular soon to be sent to the neighbours of the nuclear station at Pessenheim in Haut Rhin, telling them what to do in the event of a leak.

This says that if the leak is a minor one people should stay home and keep in their animals until the all-clear is given. If the leak is more serious people are to get a plastic bag for each member of the family and fill it with their necessary clothes and papers. Buses will then be sent to collect them, take them to a decontamination centre and then on to a holiday camp.

Strasbourg police officers charged with assault

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, Feb 20. A police superintendent, six inspectors and a customs officer in Strasbourg have been charged with beating four prisoners being held for drug offences last October.

The charges are the result of an inquiry by Mme Jacqueline Boulange, an examining magistrate brought in from Nancy.

The four prisoners, all North Africans, had been arrested in a Strasbourg café following a tip-off to police. Interrogated separately during the night they were charged with trafficking in drugs and 35 grammes of heroin, worth 50,000 francs (about £5,500) on the black market, as said to have been found in their possession.

To add later three of the men lodged a complaint through their lawyers alleging that they had been beaten with rulers and truncheons after being tied naked to the central

heating pipes. One of the three alleged a truncheon had been pushed up his anus.

A medical examination which had been made two days after their arrest showed up marks of a beating on their bodies, although a further inspection made after the complaint was lodged revealed nothing.

The complainants, who have all now been released, also allege that a police doctor ignored their injuries after their arrest and signed a certificate saying they were in a fit state to remain in prison.

The affair has further soured relations between the police and public in Strasbourg, where organizations in the past have made a number of allegations against the city's force.

Two officials of the European Parliament have now written to Mme Simone Veil, President of the Parliament, asking to be reassured about police behaviour in the city.

Experiments showed influence of Ulster broadcasts on children TV blamed as a main source of learning about violence

By Peter Brock

Children living in a small town in Northern Ireland, free from the violence associated with the media image of Ulster, appear to be far from innocent of that image. Recent psychological research implicates television as a main source of learning about the violence.

Dr Edward Cairns, of the New University of Ulster at Coleraine, co Londonderry, carried out a pilot study in which he compared 20 children aged between five and six in a virtually trouble-free area of Northern Ireland with 20 children from a south London suburb.

They were all asked to respond to line-drawings of

ambiguous scenes such as a derelict house, and account was made of the number of children mentioning either "bomb" or "explosion". Four of the London children used the words, but only one in connection with terrorists, while 18 of the Irish children used them.

Dr Cairns and his colleagues set up a larger-scale experiment to discover whether the children had obtained their information from television or adult conversation.

Before doing so, researchers noted how many times the words "bomb" or "explosion" were mentioned on BBC national news in the early evening and on the BBC's regional news for Ulster.

The second experiment involved 52 children aged between five and eight in a small town 60 miles north of Belfast (who were exposed to adult conversations and Ulster media), 55 children on an island off the Scottish west coast, who received Northern Irish television, 38 in a small town on the western Scottish mainland who also received Ulster programmes and a further 48 in a Glasgow suburb.

They were shown the drawings, and the older children were asked to write an essay entitled "Here is the News" with the emphasis on television. A count of how many children used the words "bomb" and "explosion" showed that

nearly 70 per cent of the older Irish children used the words, as did 35 to 45 per cent of the Scots receiving Northern Irish television.

The Scots receiving the service wrote about bombs in relation to Belfast. One wrote: "A bomb has just gone off (sic) in Belfast, and that is the end of the news".

In the current issue of the *British Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*, Dr Cairns writes that the evidence "appears to confirm the conclusion reached by other investigators that television news can distort perceptions of reality—and to extend this finding to children as young as five years".

Nuclear-waste policy 'not relevant to test drilling'

From Our Correspondent

Ayr. When Mr Malcolm Morrison, QC, began to put the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's case at the resumed Loch Doon public inquiry in Ayr yesterday, he told Mr William Campbell, the reporter, that the planning application for permission to drill boreholes near the loch, which had been rejected by Kyle and Carrick District Council, had to be taken in relation to government policy.

The proper forum for debate on government policy was not in a local planning inquiry but in Parliament, he said. In the authority's view questions relating to the possibility of nuclear waste disposal near Loch Doon had no bearing on the application for permission to erect up to six temporary buildings or caravans and to drill test bores. That was not an issue that should be raised by the inquiry.

Mr Morrison expressed surprise that the Kyle and Carrick and the Dumfries and Galloway district councils should, on the opening day of the inquiry, have reserved their position on the legality of restrictions said to have been imposed on the scope of the inquiry.

Neither the Scottish Office nor the Reporter had imposed any restriction, he said. All that had been done was to emphasize the limits of the application. The authority's first witness was Dr Byron Lintern, a geologist, who was senior officer in charge of drilling operations carried out by the authority at Altnabreac, Caithness.

He said the proposed drilling programme at Loch Doon would be similar to that at Caithness. It would involve two drilling rigs working in shifts round the clock, drilling to maximum depths of 500 metres.

Contractors would have about 10 people on site at all times. Dr Lintern gave a commentary while a film of the drilling operation at Altnabreac was shown to the inquiry.

"Two lakes" inquiry: British Nuclear Fuels Ltd yesterday gave details of seven potential water supplies they had examined with a view to meeting future demands at the Windscale nuclear plant (Our Whitehaven Correspondent writes).

They put forward the conclusion that only two of the sources, Wa Water or Ennerdale Water, could provide the quantity of water needed.

Giving evidence on the twenty-second day of the "two lakes" inquiry in Whitehaven, Mr Thomas Bodington, a BNF consulting engineer, said they had considered taking water supplies from a variety of sources.

Apart from Ennerdale and West Water they had considered the rivers Derwent, Calder and Bleng, the sea and ground water. But after examining the hydrology and engineering features of the sources they had concluded that most of the other choices were unacceptable and did not have any advantages over Ennerdale or West Water. The inquiry continues.

Rock group lead singer dies

Bon Scott, lead singer of AC/DC rock group, was found dead in a car in south London on Tuesday night, police said yesterday. He was discovered by a friend.

Mr Scott, aged 30, was born in Scotland but brought up in Australia, where the five-man group was formed.

Roman Catholics start offshore insurance

By Our Religious Affairs

Correspondent. The Roman Catholic Church in Britain has ventured into offshore finance by choosing Guernsey as the base for a new church insurance company because of the less restrictive laws there on insurance matters. The British Treasury has

granted permission for the move and the States of Guernsey has also agreed.

A mutual insurance company has been set up, which will be wholly owned by the participating diocese and religious orders in England, Wales, and Scotland. Many thousands of buildings owned by various bodies in the

Roman Catholic Church will be covered, at what are said to be substantial savings in premiums. The premium income of the company is expected to be about £1m.

The existing insurance service for Roman Catholic buildings is conducted through the Catholic National Insurance Trust Ltd, which is being wound up.

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Wolverhampton theatre closing after 86 years

From Our Correspondent

Wolverhampton. The final curtain will fall at the 86-year-old Grand Theatre at Wolverhampton on Sunday, March 9. It is closing because the local authority has decided not to renew an annual grant of £34,000.

Mr Humphrey Stanbury, the theatre's managing director, said yesterday: "This is a great tragedy. We have been greatly underfunded and we cannot go on. This was a community theatre in the fullest sense."

A liquidator will be appointed on April 1 for Staffordshire's last surviving traditional theatre, some of whose 20 regular staff have worked there more than 40 years. The theatre costs £100,000 a year to run.

Parachute club examiner's rating is suspended

From Our Correspondent

Colchester. The head of a sky-diving club at Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, has had his examiner's rating suspended after the death of a parachutist.

Mr Pat Slattery's rating has been suspended since the death of a parachutist after an inquiry into the death of Mr Herbert Broad, aged 62, an engineer.

At the same time the association has been ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority to tighten safety rules at its centres.

Since Mr Broad fell into the sea and drowned on New Year's Day there have been two further accidents at the parachute

£125,000 ITV grant to film institute

By a Staff Reporter

The British Film Institute is receiving a grant of £125,000 from the independent television companies this year, more than double the grant from the companies for 1978-79.

Previously the grants from the companies have been used for the preservation of independent television programmes in the National Film Archive, but the increase will provide extra funds for the film institute's production board, enabling it to facilitate the development of innovative and experimental programming for television.

Other money from the grant will be used to expand the institute's television information services.

Police hold 41 in Sardinian drive against kidnappers

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, Feb 20. Police have arrested 41 people and are looking for 12 others in an attempt to break up a gang of Sardinian criminals allegedly responsible for seven kidnappings and three attempted kidnappings which brought the island a sum of £15m in ransoms.

Kidnappings were carried out between June 1978 and August 1979, and include the seizure of the Schilde family from London on August 21 of last year.

Apart from the arrests, several hundred searches have been carried out and records of interrogations now fill thousands of pages.

The arrests are said to have been based on the confessions of six people accused in the Cuna family kidnapping, which took place the day after the disappearance of the Schilde family in Sardinia.

The list of arrests is being taken as an indication of Sardinia's new type of kidnapper. It was clear that an organization as efficient as this was a long way from the traditional type of Sardinian bandit.

They are seen to have adopted methods typical of an industrial society, rather than the old rural background of banditry, in their choice of victims and the re-cycling of marked ransom money.

Most of those charged with or suspected of having had a hand in these kidnappings are said to have regular work. They include bus drivers, accountants, skilled workers, mechanics employed by a public service, private security men, employees of transport businesses and farmers.

The farmers belong to the rural world but those under suspicion graze their own herds and cannot be regarded as poor.

WEST EUROPE

Compromise with doctors sought
French health system
threatened by costs

in Charles Hargrove, Feb 20

France has for the past 30 years prided itself on the fact that whereas Britain suffered a "socialized medicine" which succeeded in working a system of medicine a la carte, which achieved a compromise between the interests of all Frenchmen and the liberal exercise of their profession by physicians, this delicate balance is threatened by soaring health costs. They are estimated to be at a rate of 20 per cent a year, and the cumulative cost of the health service is at 25,000 francs (£2,777) a head, a substantial increase on last year.

The Government is determined to cut it down, and to increase the health service to that of the gross domestic product, which, between 1975 and 1978 has risen an average 13.9 per cent. The Government is determined to cut it down, and to increase the health service to that of the gross domestic product, which, between 1975 and 1978 has risen an average 13.9 per cent.

The second tier would comprise "approved" physicians, with special qualifications or experience, who would be free to determine their fees, and whose patients would be reimbursed at the official rate.

Finally, doctors bound by no agreement could charge what they liked but their patients would be refunded only at the arbitrary rate of, at present, 4,000 francs a consultation.

In fact, there is already a three-tier classification of practitioners, because about a quarter are authorized to charge more than the basic fee of 40 francs a consultation while only 1.5 per cent of them have refused to endorse the national agreement which came into force in 1971.

The difference between the new system and the present one is that the second category would be free, and not as now decided by a joint commission of doctors and health fund managers; and that the proportion of the fee reimbursed would apparently be frozen.

The medical profession is divided on the issue. The fear of the more progressive-minded doctors who believe in "social medicine" is that the number of doctors would rise sharply, particularly if the controls and restrictions on the first category were tightened up considerably. General practitioners with a large and wealthy practice would join the specialists. And in the first category as the Socialist newspaper *Le Matin* points out, would be left only those with poorer patients or young doctors.

It would certainly cut national health costs but at the detriment of free access to medical care for all.

Dutch Cabinet emergency
over minister's resignation

in Robert Schull, Feb 20

The Dutch Cabinet met in an emergency session tonight after an announcement that Mr. van der Stoep, the Finance Minister, had resigned.

The announcement came in the Prime Minister, to announce after two days of speculation about the future of the coalition between Christian Democrats and conservative Liberals.

Monday night the Cabinet had after discussions that had several weeks, to reach a decision by consensus on the limit by which public spending should be reduced beyond 10,000-guilder (£2,225m) agreed two years ago. Ministers took the unusual step of sending by vote.

However, two key Cabinet members voted against a compromise figure proposed by the Prime Minister. Mr. Willem van der Stoep, the Social Affairs Minister, voted against because he believed Mr. van der Stoep's figure of 13,000-guilder (about £2,900m) in spending cuts was too high. Mr. van der Stoep, on the other hand, felt it was too low, that should not be cut.

With ministers are Christian Democrats and though the six Social Cabinet members voted in favour of Mr. van der Stoep's figure, they are known to be Mr. van der Stoep's toughest. There is a distinct likelihood that they may follow Mr. van der Stoep's example, thereby bringing down the Cabinet.

Kees Kerkstra, the parliamentary leader of the Liberals, tonight that the Finance Minister "was not just any-

French cash in on newly
monetized coins

Our Own Correspondent, Feb 20

in shops near the Paris Gare de l'Est today as hoards of people thronged to demonstrate all five, and 50 franc coins contained silver. Prices of anything to seven times the face value were realized for the coins before the tender of the all such transactions subject to strict laws which sales to 50 coins, and are in any event subject to 50 per cent tax, black market on the pavement outside the shops were also brisk, coins changing hands at 10 times their face value.

The Government's decision to devalue the coins is due to the rise in the value of the silver in the five franc

OVERSEAS

Pretoria hawks plan
for contingency of
Rhodesia intervention

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg, Feb 20

Military hawks in South Africa are suggesting that the Army will intervene in Rhodesia if a civil war breaks out after the weekend.

Mr. P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, is apparently trying to calm the situation.

English-language newspapers today carry reports that South African troops would be sent into Rhodesia if the Government believed it was warranted.

If chaos followed the election and there was an "uncontrolled" refugee situation, South Africa would feel duty-bound to intervene militarily, informed sources were quoted as saying in Pretoria.

There can be little doubt that the reports have been inspired by the military, which has its headquarters in Pretoria.

Meanwhile, Mr. Botha has denied that any South African troops are still in Rhodesia. They were officially withdrawn from the Beit Bridge border area in January.

South Africa has repeatedly stated that it would abide by a political settlement in Rhodesia that led to a legally elected government.

There is no doubt that South Africa has the military muscle to intervene but whether the South African public would stand for the casualties such a campaign would involve is another issue.

Increasing incursions over the Mozambique border by guerrillas of the African National Congress are adding to the pressure on Mr. Botha to take firm action over Rhodesia.

The security police today announced the capture of two guerrillas who, they said, had slipped into South Africa to sabotage a strategic target.

They were captured near Durban, a main port.

The arrests follow an announcement that troops have been moved into northern Natal province to search for a band of between eight and 10 guerrillas who attacked a trading store at the weekend.

Mr. R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, has sent a Note of protest to the Mozambique Government stating that there is conclusive evidence that it is harbouring guerrillas and warning that South Africa reserves the right to take any necessary steps to protect South African life and property.

The warning was seen as South Africa's toughest statement so far to Mozambique's Frelimo regime since it came to power in 1975, and with which the South African Government has elected for a "live and let live" relationship.

His visit to Britain was under the auspices of Mr. R. W. (Tiny) Rowland, chairman of Lonrho. Although some publicity was planned, Dr. Savimbi said before leaving that he had deferred to Foreign Office wishes and agreed not to appear on television.

A Foreign Office spokesman contradicted this, saying that no advice had been given Dr. Savimbi. Ministers were aware that he had been here but no ministers or officials had met him.

Dr. Savimbi would not be drawn on whom he had met, or on the details of the support that he had been seeking.

At a private reception Dr. Savimbi made a stirring speech in which he said that he was fighting not for power but for principles. "If the Cubans and Russians are not stopped in Africa the dangers to southern Africa are very great."

Alarm in
London
at wave of
intimidation

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

There were indications in the House of Commons yesterday that the Government is becoming increasingly alarmed over developments in Rhodesia, and the apparent failure of all the efforts being made to reduce intimidation.

With elections now only a week away, Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, and Government spokesman on foreign affairs in the Commons, told the House that political intimidation was making it extremely difficult for most parties to campaign in certain areas.

He added that "considerable consultations" had taken place in Rhodesia on the difficult and sensitive problem of the situation after the election.

Mr. Gilmour said that no complete solution had been found and he did not believe that there was one. He hoped that things would turn out "not too badly".

But, in striking contrast to his normally urbane and calm handling of Commons questioning, Sir Ian gave the impression yesterday of being unusually sensitive and irritable, even to the more moderate enquiries of Mr. Peter Shore, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman.

Mr. Shore expressed the widespread concern in the House at the course of events in Rhodesia, pointing out the urgent need to reinforce confidence in Britain's capacity to insist on effective and even-handed administration.

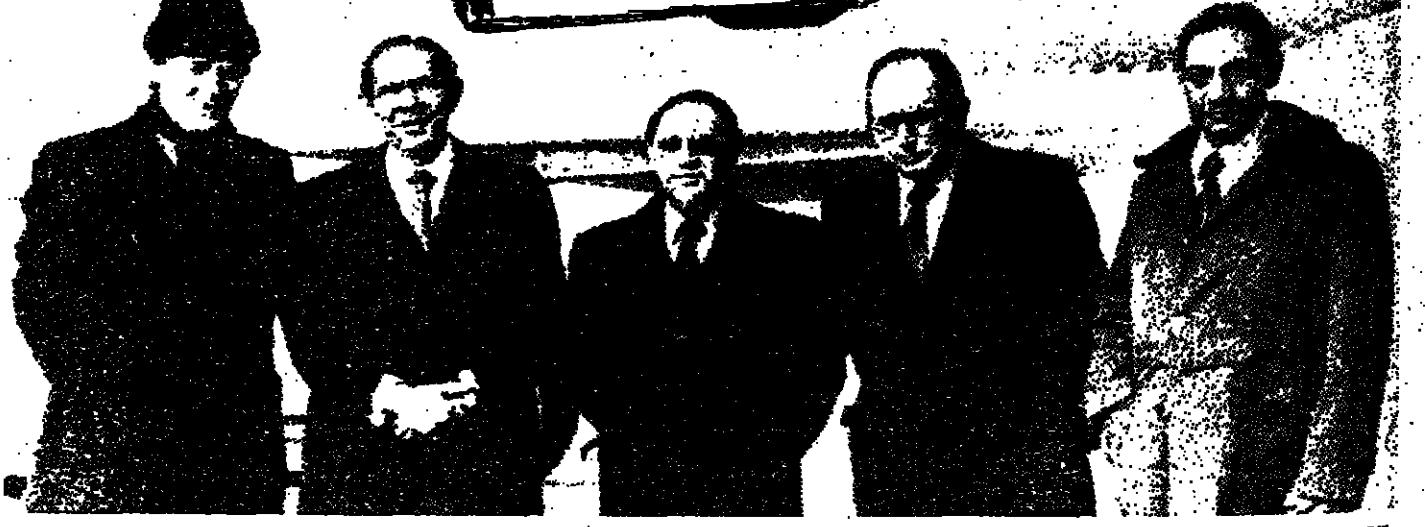
He suggested that the Government was much hampered by the lack of independent information in making its decisions and asked Sir Ian to explain the direct conflict of evidence between Government House's claim that the Mount Darwin area was one of the worst areas of intimidation, and the published statement yesterday of the British election supervisor on the spot that there was not the case.

Mr. Shore accepted that threats to the ceasefire and the elections came from many sources but would urge the Government not to take any measures that would excite the already strong suspicion of impartiality.

Repeating to questions about the bombing of Salisbury churches, Sir Ian said that the incidents were being investigated but it was too early to attribute blame to the Selous Scouts or to any one else.

Mortar attack: Guerrillas loyal to Mr. Mugabe today opened up with mortars on a Rhodesian police and Army patrol close to the perimeter of a ceasefire assembly point in north-eastern Rhodesia, a British military spokesman said in Salisbury.

هكذا من الأهل



The five members of the United Nations commission to investigate the affairs of the Shah are, from the left: Mr. Adib Daoudy, of Syria; Señor Andrés Aguilar, of Venezuela; Mr. Mohammad Bedjaoui, of Algeria; M. Louis-Edmond Petit, of France; and Mr. Harry Jayewardene, of Sri Lanka.

UN group waits as Iran shifts emphasis of
investigation to 'crimes' of United States

From Michael Leapman, New York, Feb 20

Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, was able to make his much-delayed announcement today of the appointment of a commission to visit Tehran.

The arrival of the five commissioners in the Iranian capital has, however, been delayed until the weekend and then the mandate is far less specifically linked to the release of the American hostages than the United States had wanted.

Even after the cable acceptance of the mission had been received early this morning from President Bani-Sadr, last-minute hitches delayed Dr. Waldheim's statement.

He had hoped to persuade the Iranians to accept the mission's arrival today—indeed the five were at the airport in Geneva awaiting his go-ahead—but Iran was adamant in insisting on three days' grace in order, as they said, to make proper preparations.

This delay puts paid to the suggestion made earlier this week that the requirement that the commission should interview the hostages, shifts its emphasis to an investigation into the record of the United States rather than that of the Shah,

which had been the original understanding.

President Carter has already said that his administration will not apologise for any of its past actions.

The mandate of the commission as announced today by Dr. Waldheim is "to head Iran's grievances and allow an early solution to the crisis between the United States and Iran".

He added that it would complete its work as soon as it could, and report to him.

Another wait: After spending most of the day at the airport waiting for the go-ahead from New York, the five-member international commission set up by the United Nations to receive Iranian complaints against the former Shah's regime tonight settled into a hotel here for a further wait (Alan McGregor writes from Geneva).

Their chartered jet was ready all day for take-off at a few minutes' notice. A departure time was twice scheduled and later postponed.

The five lawyers, who after lunch moved to the Algerian diplomatic mission to continue private talks, learned only in late afternoon that "a number of open questions" still

remained following President Bani-Sadr's cable to Dr. Waldheim.

Until then, it had been believed that the hitch was technical rather than of substance.

The only word from them during the day came through Mr. Mohamed Bedjaoui, the Algerian member, who said that while they would go to Iran under agreed procedures they would be free to take any initiative for attaining their objective.

He denied they would be restricted to only a week in the Iranian capital.

With the commission is Mr. Diego Cordovez, a United Nations secretary-general, and half-a-dozen support staff. Because their chartered jet has only 12 seats, other United Nations assistants are booked on commercial flights.

President Carter "hopeful": President Carter has told members of Congress here that good progress is being made to secure the release of the 50 hostages from the American embassy in Tehran. But arrangements for their safe return have still not been completed (David Cross writes from Washington).

Leading article, page 7

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OVERSEAS

Moscow gets another chance from Bonn over Games boycott

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Feb 20

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said today that his Government was holding back on a formal decision about boycotting the Moscow Olympics in order to give the Soviet Union another chance over Afghanistan.

It so happened that President Carter's deadline for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan expired today as Mr. Cyrus Vance, his Secretary of State, was in Bonn for the second round of talks in two months on the Afghanistan situation.

But not even Mr. Vance's presence induced the West Germans to follow the American example and declare a boycott, even though leading West German politicians have clearly said it would be inconceivable for their sportsmen to compete in the absence of the Americans.

Questioned during a talk with the foreign press, the Chancellor indicated that there was still plenty of time for a decision since the deadline for entries to the Games expired some time in May.

Pressed to explain why he wanted to take more time, he replied somewhat waspishly: "We would like to give some people in the world another chance to create the conditions which would make participation possible."

The Chancellor did not hide his displeasure that President Carter had announced his ultimatum about the Olympic Games without previously consulting him and other European allies.

He said he had heard about the ultimatum on the day it was announced. That was "a little late". But he had no complaints about the ultimatum consultation in general.

Mr. Vance said at a joint press conference with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, that the United States was willing to improve its methods of consultation with its allies and this subject had been discussed in Bonn.

"It is critical that in situations like this we have both the mechanism and means for full discussion at all times," he said.

The press conference, held after hours of talks last night and today between the two, and more than two hours of consultations with the Chancellor, produced no indication of any change in the positions of the two key NATO allies.

Britain's Olympic stance defended

By David Spenser Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's first pre-Olympic medal was one easily enough yesterday by Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, holding the official line.

While a number of MPs at the Select Committee hearing tried to jostle Mr Hurd out of his stride, claiming that the suit the sports authorities, or was applying double standards. Government had failed to con-

Whether the British Olympic Association will endorse the Government's advice, that British athletes would do better to stay away from Moscow, is another matter. Kevin McNamara, Labour member for Hull, claimed that British athletes were being put under "fantastic pressure".

Mr Hurd said that all that had happened was that the Prime Minister had written a letter, "there are no thumb-screws out," he said.

Earlier Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour Member for Newham South, had demanded to know if the Minister was aware that the Government's comments about the games would be seen as "offensive and untrue".

Looking somewhat surprised at this show of vehemence, Mr Hurd replied that it could only be thought so by people who did not understand the Soviet system.

He made the point that athletes who chose to go to Moscow would be "international actors in a play which, from the Soviet point of view, was being staged for its own propaganda. This would have been the case even if the invasion of Afghanistan had not taken place. But that event, for the Government, had "tipped the balance".

Mr Anthony Grant, Conservative Member for Harrow Central, hoped that British athletes would at least have the grace to stay away from the ceremonial parade.

There was a film of the 1936 games, Mr Grant went on, recalling the incident with some relish, showing the French contingent giving the Nazi salute to Hitler as they went past.

Some consequences of the Government's decision to oppose the games were still to be worked out, Mr Hurd revealed. One concerns the official advice to be given to the broadcasting media on whether to cover the games or not.

"Obviously we cannot give orders to the BBC or Independent television," Mr Hurd said. "We shall have to consider it carefully."

A growing number of countries had adopted the British view, and there might be further developments in the next few months. The Olympic Association had until May to reply to the Soviet invitation, and individual athletes could take their decision still later.

The fact that everyone was free to work out their positions, though it might be better if the West as a whole was agreed, was one of our difficulties and one of our strengths, Mr Hurd added.

Meanwhile, the State Department announced today that President Carter's decision to boycott the Games was "final and irrevocable". Today was the deadline laid down by Mr Carter for the Soviet Union to go ahead if Soviet troops were not withdrawn from Afghanistan.

White House officials are hoping that the United States Olympic Committee will formally approve a boycott as soon as possible so that arrangements for an alternative series of games can be made.



The exuberance of winning the Canadian general election shows in the face and actions of Mr Pierre Trudeau in his office in Ottawa.

Russians dismiss EEC proposal that Afghanistan become neutral

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Feb 20

The deadline set by President Carter for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan passed today without the Russians taking the slightest notice of it.

The suggestion made yesterday by the European Economic Community that Afghanistan should be declared a neutral country has also been dismissed. Tass quoted the French Communist newspaper *L'Humanité* as saying the idea was "absolutely unacceptable".

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, refused to set any date for a pullback during his recent talks in Delhi, and senior Politburo members have all expressed their disapproval during speeches before the republican Supreme Soviet elections that the threats to the Afghan revolution and to the Karmal regime are, if anything, increasing.

Mr Mikhail Suslov, the hard-line ideologist, said in a speech today that the American Government had used the Soviet help to Afghanistan as a pretext to launch a campaign of blackmail, "blatant and threats against the Soviet Union."

"But the Soviet people will not be intimidated," he added. "The American Government's actions will inflict damage primarily to the United States itself. The dangerous slogan in American policy is the 'peace' slogan, which is a disguise for the prestige of that great power from which people expect a more balanced and responsible policy."

And as the tone of Soviet attacks on the Carter Administration and on the President himself has become noticeably sharper, so it has become increasingly obvious that the Kremlin was unlikely to do anything that might suggest it was affected by the President's warnings or retaliatory measures.

Mr Suslov repeated the Soviet assertion that the United States was trying to twist the arms of its West European allies, but said that Western Europe had a vital interest in maintaining and developing détente.

He said Soviet policy remained "principled and consistent", and the country was still committed to détente. A more detailed statement of Soviet attitudes to the United States and the West is expected on Friday, when President Brezhnev makes the final and most authoritative speech to his constituents before the elections.

Tomorrow Mr Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet Prime Minister, who has not been seen in public since he was taken seriously ill in mid-October, will make his speech. There is no indication that he is likely to step down from office, and it is understood here that he has already begun to resume some of his official functions as head of Government.

Nine united on Carrington plan

From Michael Hornsby Brussels, Feb 20

The EEC's British-inspired proposal for a neutral Afghanistan under international guarantee has skillfully injected a constructive note into the West's hitherto purely condemnatory response to the Soviet intervention in that country and helped the Community to disguise its internal disagreements.

Arguably, by showing their hand so soon, the Nine have exposed their embryonic initiative to the risk of Soviet rejection, before its possibilities had a chance to be fully explored. But disclosing the proposal was felt to be unavoidable because of the publicity surrounding yesterday's meeting in Rome.

The overriding need, in the Foreign Minister's view, was to show that the EEC could do more than simply squabble over such matters as attendance at the Moscow Olympic Games or the expert of surplus butter.

They also wanted to show that they have their own ideas on Afghanistan and are not mere camp followers of the United States.

The sudden outbreak of harmony did not lessen differences of opinion over the merits of boycotting the Olympics which, if anything, became even sharper at the Rome meeting. But that issue was relegated to a position of secondary importance, pending assessment of the

Soviet response to the neutrality plan. Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, insisted yesterday that his proposal was "not a bid to put the Russians on the spot, but a genuine attempt to find a solution to the Afghan crisis. In truth, it is probably a bit of both."

In effect, the EEC has chosen to take at face value the Russians' claim to have intervened for the limited purpose of countering alleged Western interference in a border region of legitimate Soviet security. If that is so, it is said, the Russians should welcome neutralisation.

The Nine believe there is some evidence that the Russians are genuinely surprised by the intensity of international reaction to their Afghan venture, and might be glad of an opportunity to extricate themselves without loss of face. Nothing is lost, it is argued, by giving them the chance to do so.

Should that view of Soviet motives prove mistaken, at least the moral bankruptcy of the Russian position will have been exposed irrefutably, to even such countries as India, which are inclined to give Moscow the benefit of the doubt.

The nine consider that not enough has yet been done to persuade the Russians to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan, and that there is a danger of Western countries being drawn into over-hasty commitments to the repressive neighbouring regime of General Zia

ul-Haq in Pakistan, thereby driving India further into the Soviet sphere of influence. That, broadly, is the reasoning behind the EEC proposal. It is recognized that there are pitfalls. The West does not want to wind up giving international blessing to a Soviet puppet regime that is supposedly neutral. That implies credible machinery to ensure that Afghans are free to determine their own government.

Lord Carrington cited the historical precedent of the "unwritten" agreement between Britain, France and the United States to treat Afghanistan as a neutral buffer state. He suggested that some of Afghanistan's neighbours might act as guarantors of its neutrality. The example of Austria was mentioned.

These aspects are up for discussion. Not least among the questions that will have to be tackled is the possible need for some kind of international police force to supervise Afghan neutrality, at least during a transitional phase. The EEC has now clarified its own ideas on the subject, and will be sounding the opinions of others.

The current tour of European capitals by Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, should give some indication of the American reaction to the EEC proposal. President Carter was advised last week and was not discouraging. But the Americans may not be happy about the downgrading of the Olympics issue.

Leading article, page 15

World View by Arrigo Lev

Psychological factors explain Italy's economic successes

A successful defence of what Raymond Aron called "a decadent Europe" against the urges of the last surviving empire, the Soviet Union, will certainly have to include a better management of the capitalist economy. But is there a future for capitalism? Is it not fatally losing vitality, due to the spread of suffocating regulations, rooted in the universal desire for a maximum of security with a minimum of effort? Is not the taste itself for risk and profit in a free market dying away?

While a deliberate attempt is being made in Britain to reverse the trend to "socialism" (or, rather, to the unbridled bureaucratic welfare economy) a spontaneous revival of capitalism has been taking place in another country. Italy, which had equally progressed in the same dangerous direction.

Split mind of modern man

The Italian case seems to show that instincts are hard to die. Even today, a primitive, capitalistic Mr Hyde, with an unbridled passion for hard work and money, lives, only half asleep, inside every political or bureaucratic Dr Jekyll, ready to pay for or abandon himself to an orgy of productive work, as soon as he sees a chance to make himself rich, rather than the Inspector of Taxes.

The "split mind" of modern man is rooted in the split mind of modern man.

Economists feel compelled to call into account such unquantifiable psychological factors in order to explain fully some of the recent successes of that still mysterious object, the Italian economy. The very faults that make Italian society almost ungovernable—the widespread aggressiveness, the disrespect of rules, the selfishness of individuals and social groups—become as many virtues when transferred to the sphere of private enterprise. Thanks to these qualities, the Italian economy has reacted extremely well to the challenge of the post-oil crisis era.

Italy's share of world exports last year reached the record level of 7.2 per cent: it was 6.7 per cent in 1972, it fell to 5.9 in 1973, and has since recovered in recent years. This is only partly explained by the devaluation of the lira in 1976. In 1979, due to an inflation rate which is almost double the average, Italy's export prices have increased faster—by three or four points—than those of its competitors.

If Italy has, nevertheless, still enlarged its share of the world market this is the result of an incredible increase in the number of companies engaged in export: they were 48,000 in 1972, they jumped to 75,000 in 1977, practically doubling less than a decade.

These figures we can see, the surfacing of the "submerged economy" made up of a large number of small or medium-sized enterprises which enjoy a great freedom of action, suffer less than the big companies from the rigidity of state union regulations, as well as occasionally paying less tax and using some "black" labour.

Italy has, in the first place, thanks to its army of lightly equipped guerrillas, this is no guarantee that it will face with success the coming trials: the rate of inflation must conceivably high, but the direct consequences of the inefficiency of state industry, wage-indexation, of the terrible deficit of the "enlarged public sector".

The current deficit is equivalent to 7 per cent of the GNP, a wanton destruction of sources, the fruit of the "official" mentality, which Italy could ill afford, having now to export 20 per cent of its GNP (instead of 15 per cent as before the crisis) to pay for its imports.

Still, the resurrection and pangs of the private sector, these difficult years offers some hope for the future: the water and public services, the industrial economy should be eaten up by the inefficient public sector has succeeded.

The Italian example seems to show that a capitalistic, enterprise system can survive and expand side by side with the "bureaucratic" sector, including state industry, the public sector, and a public service, many large-size private companies.

The same people are often actively engaged in both spheres: "socialists" up to a certain hour of the day, they are capitalists in the evening, in the capitalist market: the shorting of the working day has contributed to the growth of this Jekyll-and-Hyde economic model. The inefficiency of the Italian state also helped by bringing into disrepute the "public" ideology and making people realize that the market works better. I do not, however, suggest this as a template for others to follow.

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Jekyll and Hyde economic model

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Fear in India judiciary after Gandhi return

Continued from page 1

Impatience to achieve a steam-roller majority.

"She probably won't do it the same way as during the Emergency, but will exercise power by filling every important office with people completely subservient to her or Sanjay."

Mr Charan Singh too, spoke with wit about the political effect of Mrs Gandhi's "inordinate love for her son". He believed that Mrs Gandhi wanted to make Sanjay "de facto prime minister" and her successor.

"He already summons ministers: They touch his feet and accept his nominees as their personal assistant. I believe he will soon invest him with official status—several major portfolios are still unfilled."

There is no doubt that her spectacular electoral success last month has given Mrs Gandhi the opportunity to exercise personal rule over this nation. She increased the 35 per cent of the vote which she received in 1977 to only 42 per cent, but the quirks of the constituency system and the shabby disarray of her opponents netted her two-thirds of the 325 seats in the Lok Sabha (Lower House).

But that is not enough. She has only 97 supporters out of 332 in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) and without a majority there, her policies could be obstructed. Her dissolution of this week of nine state assemblies, which nominate the members of the Upper House, was designed to preclude any possibility of legislative mutiny.

When new state assemblies are elected, they will give Mrs Gandhi's party a majority in the Rajya Sabha too.

"An affront to democracy," declared the Communists, "Fascism on the march!" cried the Lok Dal, the second largest party, led by Charan Singh.

But the indignation was theatrical for everybody knows that the critics, after their election the same thing in the same number of states.

Mr Charan Singh was then Home Minister and draws distinction between the morality of the two exercises. But eventually there is no difference. The dissolution are neither unconstitutional nor venal, by themselves, of dictatorship.

Far more threatening is the return to power of the figures responsible for the abrogation of democratic rights, suppression of free speech and perversion of the rule of law between 1975 and 1977.

The egregious Sanjay Gandhi, now a Minister, is his mother's closest adviser and the auto-chamber to her authority.

On Monday the Prime Minister moved from her private residence at 1 Safdarji Road, in Delhi.

During the previous days, at her request, 30 prominent religious leaders, called upon, a propitiation, burnt offerings, it is said, and often unpredictable, the personality of Indira Gandhi.

Two of his closest and most credited associates, Mr Bal Lal and Mr V. C. Shukla, who had not yet appointed to office again in that capacity.

At least five of the 15 Cabinet ministers are Sanjay protégés.

The weakness of the judiciary in the face of the mother-in-law combination has already shown itself. Special courts set up last year to hear charges against Mrs Gandhi and others have declared themselves redundant.

Mr Jag Mohan, a friend of Sanjay Gandhi, appointed last week to the powerful post of Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi, applied for dismissal charges he faces in connection with alleged offences during the Emergency. Mr Sanjay Gandhi's answer is that the action and there is no doubt that the legal system will soon lose trace of all its proceedings.

Mrs Pandit doubts whether her niece will directly interfere with the courts, but she has "an atmosphere" is created which imposes some anxiety or even fear on the judiciary.

A first intimation has already appeared of a move in the direction of news management. During the Emergency, four independent news agencies were merged into one semi-controlled agency called Samachar. Last week, Information and Broadcasting said that a revival of Samachar "deserves to be considered seriously."

The Prime Minister herself offers no clue to her intentions. Since her election she has given no press conferences, apart from some foreign news and television appearances. She has now been interviewed by the Times because of the pleasure at references made by the newspaper's columnist Bernard Levin.

Mrs Pandit said that she explained herself and was not in any confidence in her own mother's and judgments of those of her astrologers or priests.

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Priest murdered in latest Uganda violence

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Feb 20

The Ugandan authorities are facing serious problems of internal security, from both sides of the border, as members of the large Tanzanian military force which overthrew former President Idi Amin last year.

In the latest incidents, Father Wilfrid, aged 50, a French-Canadian Roman Catholic priest, was shot dead yesterday by men who stole his car. And a Tanzanian soldier charged with murdering three Ugandan policemen was set free by a group of armed Tanzanian soldiers who intercepted his escort.

Dr Barabas Kunukula, the acting Interior Minister, promised a full investigation and said efforts were being made to return the Tanzanian soldier to custody.

The wave of crime in Uganda and the failure of the police and the Tanzanian Army to control the situation have led to the President Binisa's recent dismissal of Mr Paulo Muvunga as Interior Minister. Mr Muvunga and his supporters have responded by seeking support to oust President Binisa.

President Tito

Belgrade, Feb 20.—President Tito's condition remained grave yesterday although he maintained a slight improvement.

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Villagers flee from Kabul's gunship attacks

Continued from page 1

The military threat that this poses to Pakistan scarcely needs emphasising. Jalalabad is only 60 miles from the border at the Khyber Pass and Russian troops are also reported to be camped in numbers north of the village of Spinboidak, south of Kandahar, where rebel groups are also particularly active.

A large concentration of Soviet armour so near the Pakistan border cannot fail to increase international tension and it would seem probable that the Soviet Union will have to embark on a "hot pursuit" of rebels across the frontier to provoke a superpower crisis.

By the same token, any increase in rebel activity, such as that which is now being witnessed in the eastern Afghan provinces, is going to be interpreted by the Russians as provocation by the west. Russian radio broadcasts to Afghanistan repeatedly accuse security forces of China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia of arming the mujaheddin. If the rebels acquired ground-to-air missiles, the sound of rockets exploding in tiny villages and their evacuation brought down last week was not hit by one, Soviet anger against the West will intensify.

Statesmen of the superpowers should be able to avoid such a crisis. But the countryside around Jalalabad—the unending flights of helicopter gunships, the sound of rockets exploding in tiny villages and their evacuation brought down last week was not hit by one, Soviet anger against the West will intensify.

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Russian armour is reported to be continuing to flood into Afghanistan across the Amu Darya river, from the Soviet Union. Last night, for example, a long column of T-72 tanks could be observed travelling down the Salang Pass towards Kabul together with logistics and radio lorries.

In the east, fighting appears to have broken out between Soviet troops and deserting Afghan soldiers, particularly around the airfield at Payzabad although reports from Peshawar that the airport has been captured by the rebels should be treated with great caution.

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OVERSEAS

Begin Cabinet faces crucial vote on extremists' demands to settle among Arabs in Hebron

From Christopher Walker

A Jewish city steeped in Jewish Biblical history with a mayor who supports the Palestinian Liberation Organization and a heavily guarded Jewish settlement, Hebron has long been the focal point for the Arab-Israeli conflict on the occupied West Bank.

After the murder of a young Jewish settler, the crowded Casbah, last month, the situation has reached the point where both the American and Egyptian governments have given up the idea of a settlement process could be undermined.

In an emotional response to the killing of Mr. Joshua Sima, an immigrant from Denmark, the Israeli Cabinet bowed to right-wing pressure and decided in principle to allow Jews to settle in the city centre. It will have to vote in the next few weeks whether to implement the decision, a move which would mark a radical change from the post-1967 policy of keeping settlers away from large concentrations of Arabs.

Jewish extremists from Kiryat Arba, the new suburb of concrete tower blocks which overlooks Hebron, have used the occasion to renew demands to return to a number of buildings in the residential area. They claim that these were abandoned by members of the small Jewish community who fled in August, 1929, after more than 50 of their fellows had been massacred by Arabs.

Most of the extremists support *Gush Emunim* (Block of the Faithful), the group which claims the right of Jews to live in any part of the Biblical land of Israel. They stubbornly disregard the opposition of Hebron's 50,000 Arabs to the proposed move, or the sheer impracticability of moving families into a hostile environment.

"This is no longer 1929 and we now have our soldiers and strict laws to defend us," exclaims Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who helped to set up Kiryat Arba 10 years ago. "If the Army left, we would be killed so there must be an indefinite occupation. We want as many Jews to come and live here as possible."

Other supporters of a Jewish return to Hebron are more outspoken, openly advocating the exodus of the Arab population from the city—one of the four in the world regarded as holy by the Jews. Speaking during the recent curfew which kept 20,000 Arabs confined to their homes, Rabbi Haim Druckman, a member of the Knesset, told a crowd of several hundred Jews: "Anyone who does not want us here can find somewhere else to live."

As a start, the settlers have submitted a list of five buildings in the city centre which they claim can be occupied immediately. But Mr. Yitzhak Zamir, the Attorney-General, has ruled out the legal feasibility of occupying three of them because they are leased under protected tenancy agreements to local organizations.

The ruling has done nothing to deter the militants who responded with a call for Mr. Zamir's resignation and a threat to occupy the buildings by force if their demands are not met. They have also been unmoved by the fact that the heirs of the Jewish family owning one of the two other buildings have informed the Government that they do not want Jews to move into it.

The ambivalence of the Begin Government's attitude towards extreme Jewish settlers has been underlined by its reluctance to take any action against the 70 women and children from Kiryat Arba who have been squatting illegally in a former hospital in the centre of Hebron since last April. Israeli soldiers guard them 24 hours a day and even allow messages to be passed through the Army's communications network.

When I visited the building I discovered that fresh water is provided regularly by the Israeli authorities and that government finance had been used to fit out the dilapidated building with toilets, doors and windows.

Arab residents of Hebron remained deeply apprehensive about the future. Mr. Fawd Kawasma, the mayor, has used the occasion to emphasize what he sees as the unfair treatment of the Palestinians. "Of course, we will welcome Jews who wish to be in Hebron," he said. "But on condition that we are permitted to return to property in Israel seized from us in 1948."

Riddle of Everest near solution

Japanese climbers to seek Briton's body

Tokyo, Feb. 20.—Did the British climbers, George Leigh Mallory and Andrew Irvine conquer the summit of Mount Everest before succumbing to an icy death in June, 1924? They were last seen about 800ft below the summit before clouds hid them from view.

One of the riddles of the world's highest mountain, which has baffled experts, may soon be solved by a Japanese team preparing for a spring expedition to climb the 29,028ft peak.

A Chinese climber, just before his own death on Mount Everest last October, reported seeing the body of an Englishman at a height of 26,500ft.

The Japanese team will be searching for a camera carried by Mallory and Irvine near the summit. Experts believe the films in it could still be printed.

A picture of one of the two men on the peak would change the history of mountain climbing. It is widely acknowledged that Sir Edmund Hillary, of New Zealand, and Sherpa Tensing Norgay, members of the eighth British expedition, were the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.

Since then, 105 climbers in 19 parties have reached the summit. But all of them, except 12 members of two Chinese expeditions who climbed Mount Everest in 1960 and 1975, through the Tibetan north-east ridge route, known as the Mallory route followed southern routes from Nepal.

The Japan Alpine Club will send its expedition to China to attack the peak by way of the north-east ridge and the unconquered north wall between late April and early May.

Aoyen Hasegawa, a member of the Japanese reconnaissance party, told reporters that last October, just below the north cul a Chinese guide-climber told him he had seen an Englishman's body during a Chinese expedition in 1975.

Mr. Hasegawa, a Buddhist priest, said the Chinese, Wang Hongbad, had been a member of the unsuccessful first attack party on the summit. The second and third assault parties succeeded in putting nine members on the summit.

According to Mr. Hasegawa, Wang, pointing with his pick axe to the final pyramid area, said he saw the body behind rocks and wrote the figure 8,100 on the snow, indicating the height in metres.

Mr. Hasegawa does not understand Chinese but with the help of Wang's gestures and written Chinese characters he understood what Wang wanted to say.

Mr. Hasegawa, who will take part in the assault party this year, believed the body was that of either Mallory or Irvine.

Mr. Tom Holzel, an American climber has written to the Japan Alpine Club, asking it to search for any traces of the two including a camera. Mr. Holzel believes that at least one of the two Britons had a chance of reaching the top.—Reuter.

Thai alliance aims to bring down Premier

From Neil Kelly

Bangkok, Feb. 20.—In an attempt to overthrow General Kriangsak Chavanond as Prime Minister of Thailand, workers, students and politicians are joining in an alliance similar to one that forced an earlier military junta from power in 1973.

They have declared that removing General Kriangsak is their main aim. He has been Prime Minister since November, 1977.

Almost 10,000 people took part in an anti-Government rally yesterday. It was the biggest political demonstration in Thailand since the military coup of October, 1976, and an even bigger protest is being planned for tomorrow.

Meanwhile, political parties are trying to force the Government to recall Parliament to discuss the deteriorating economy and declining confidence in the Government. Inflation is running at more than 20 per cent and there is dissatisfaction with General Kriangsak's reshuffled government. In the reshuffle, six elected politicians were dismissed. Of the remaining members of the 38-man government, only three were elected. The others were appointed.

Political commentators here regard the challenge as the most serious General Kriangsak has yet faced as Prime Minister, but it is doubtful whether the opposition can secure enough votes in the Senate, which is appointed by the Prime Minister, to unseat him.



All that remained of beach front homes at Malibu, California, after days of Pacific storms brought floods and mud slides.

Israel says PLO has Soviet tanks

From Moshe Brilliant

Tel Aviv, Feb. 20.—The Israeli Military Command today released intelligence photographs which it claimed confirmed that Soviet T34 tanks had reached Palestinian guerrillas in southern Lebanon.

In a background paper this evening, the command said the tanks, which were the first by the Soviet block to guerrilla forces in the region, are ominous proof that Moscow was going ahead with plans to organize the guerrilla forces "along regular Soviet lines".

The document asserted that the Soviet Union was building the political and military infrastructure of a future Soviet satellite in the form of the "PLO" and had invested hundreds of millions of dollars in it.

The command published an aerial photograph showing two tanks on a ground photograph showing one. "The photographs clearly enable the identification of T34 tanks," a spokesman said. He added that they had been taken recently in the Sidon region under the control of the PLO.

Israel had reliable information, he said, that additional shipments of communist tanks and war material would reach the guerrillas soon and that Palestinians were completing armoured warfare training in Syria and in Soviet block countries.

In the short term, the tanks would jeopardize the tenuous balance of power in Lebanon it is believed.

Martial law extended in Turkey

Ankara, Feb. 20.—The Turkish Government placed two more provinces under martial law today, including the Aegean province of Izmir where troops and left-wing militants clashed last week.

The Cabinet was acting on a recommendation yesterday from the National Security Council, the country's highest advisory body, which called for martial law in Izmir and southern Hatay province on the Syrian border.

Martial law was declared in 13 of Turkey's 67 provinces in December, 1978, when bloody political riots broke out in eastern Kahramanmaraş province. Six more provinces were added to the military rule last April.

The Cabinet, acting on another National Security Council recommendation, today lifted martial law in eastern Sivas province, leaving a total of 20 provinces still under military control.

The city of Izmir has been the scene of political violence for more than a month. Hatay has experienced sporadic political killings and other acts of violence for the past two months.—Reuter.

King Khalid better

Riyadh, Feb. 20.—King Khalid of Saudi Arabia was "improving rapidly" in hospital today from exhaustion suffered on a tour of his kingdom. A medical report said the king, who is 67, needed a few more days' rest.

Nations of South united by dependence on North

The fifth article in a series on the report of the Brandt Commission.

By Roger Barthoud

The nations of the "South", ranging from a booming half-industrial nation like Brazil to a poor land-locked country like Chad, share a common predicament, says the Brandt Commission report. These countries are dependent on the "North" and many are bound together by their colonial experience.

The nations of the South, including China, have three quarters of the world's population but live on one fifth of the world's income. In the North, the average person lives more than 70 years, will rarely go hungry, and will be educated at least to secondary level.

In most countries of the South, a majority of people have a life expectancy closer to 50 years. In the poorest countries, one in four children dies before the age of five. One fifth or more of all people in the South suffer from hunger and malnutrition: 50 per cent have no chance to become literate.

The North's countries dominate the international trading system and contain more than 30 per cent of the world's manufacturing industry. Most patents and new technology belong to multinational corporations of the North, which conduct a large share of investment and trade in raw materials and manufactured goods.

In the North, ordinary people face genuine problems: unemployment, inflation and so on. In the South, the poorest face total deprivation. Malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, high birth rates, underemployment and low income interact to close off the avenues of escape.

Estimates of the number of destitute range from 700 million to 800 million. Mass poverty remains a mainly rural affliction: the poorest people in India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and most of Africa are still in the rural villages.

Literacy has made variable progress. About one-third of adults in developing countries

were literate in 1950. Just over half were literate in 1975. Literacy in Latin America rose from 65 per cent in 1960 to 75 per cent in 1970; in Asia, from 45 per cent to 55 per cent; in Africa, from 20 per cent to 26 per cent.

According to the United Nations, there are still 34 countries where 80 per cent of the population is illiterate. By contrast, higher education has often taken a disproportionate share of budgets.

The status of women in developing countries frequently denies them equal access to education, jobs, land ownership, credit and, in some countries, nutritious food.

In most poor rural areas women gather firewood and carry water over long distances. The lack of alternative fuels would help to check deforestation, and also give women more time for education, income-generation and social participation.

The commission puts some of the blame for the Third World's poverty on economic structures which favour the industrialized countries. But its report also points out that the benefits of growth in developing countries have often accrued mainly to minorities in industry, agriculture, or the higher rungs of the public services and professions. Changes in the international system must be complemented in most countries by social and economic reforms.

In some middle-income developing countries, enjoying significant revenue from productive resources, the main need is for policies to redistribute income and assets and expand employment opportunities. In poorer ones, a package including agrarian reform, promotion of small enterprises, and changes in the organization of public services is essential.

In many countries, a minority of landlords and large farmers may own 40 per cent to 60 per cent of arable land. Social and economic reforms, the Commission believes, are a necessary complement to any concerted international attempt to reduce the gap between the rich North and poor South.



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Ronald Butt

The right recipe but the wrong method

It becomes clearer as each day passes that the Government's policy on the steel industry is fundamentally sound. What we are seeing is a conflict of powers, and when that happens, the best of economic theories will be rendered ineffectual without the political will needed to make it operative.

The Government's present conflict with the unions has arisen because of the attempt by Sir Keith Joseph to put into practice in the steel industry the principles which he has successfully applied in the rest of the economy. These principles must surely now be accepted by most reasonable people as providing a more responsible basis for economic management than the bottomless pursuit of neo-Keynesianism which has brought us over the years to the point we are now in.

Unfortunately, however, the Government does not have a *tabula rasa* on which to write its economic policies. It has to start from where it is—and the question is how it gets from bad practices that cause no immediate trouble (even if they threaten the nation and its political system with ultimate ruin) to good practices which at first cause deep hostility, and which, unless introduced with great skill, give the opponents the opportunity they want to get out on to the streets and challenge the Government head on.

If there is a charge against Sir Keith Joseph and the management of British Steel it is not that their policy of cash limits is wrong, but that they applied it with an inflexible precision that played into the hands of their

opponents. The charge is further that the steel strike can now only be settled by a wage increase that will be higher than that with which the claim could have been settled earlier, and that the cost of the settlement alone will probably break the cash limits imposed on the industry by the Government—which makes a nonsense of the Government's fight for those cash limits.

The further charge is that even if the final settlement did not have this effect, the probability is that the actual cost to the industry of the stoppage so far will already have broken the cash limits—so that if the concept of cash limits were to be judged in strict business terms, its effect on British Steel's books would have to be accounted a costly commercial loss, for which the Government will eventually have to pay with public money.

But clearly, far from being simply a commercial judgment, Sir Keith's policy and tactics for steel (which is fully backed by Mrs Thatcher and by Treasury Ministers) is intended as a political action in defence of the Government's economic policies right across the board. The question, therefore, is whether as a political action these tactics are justified, and it is hard to believe that they are, bearing in mind the already visible consequences.

This is not to make heroes of the steelmen, whose leadership is undoubtedly weak, and whose leaders have now allowed themselves to drift into a position of fundamental irresponsibility.

When Mr Bill Sims went to see Sir Keith Joseph, Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Prior, he told them that what he

wanted was "new money", and when asked what he meant by that, he informed them that it meant money above the cost-of-living. Now it is irresponsible enough, in the present state of the nation and its industry, for the steelmen to demand (as they initially did) that their standard of living should be maintained, when it is plain that for a time the standard of living of the nation as a whole must fall. But to demand a rise in the steelmen's living standards when unemployment is rising and the steelmen's success could only be paid for by others who lose their jobs is the height of selfishness.

The steelmen then have nothing to be proud of. Yet we still have to ask (judging by the consequences of Sir Keith Joseph's stand) whether a more educative and less rigid application of the letter of his policy might not have served the real purposes of the policy better.

How can ministers try for the consent which is as much the basis of effective government as the law itself? In the *Right Approach to the Economy* well before the election, the Conservatives advanced the idea that a government should discuss the state of the nation with the unions regularly, and inform them broadly of what was economically feasible in terms of wages. In the Manifesto itself, this idea faded to almost nothing, but it is natural, in a crisis like the present, that the idea of some kind of forum, in which such consultation could take place, should again come to mind.

It could, of course, do nothing at this stage to assist a solution of the steel strike, which can now only run

its course. And more generally the idea carries obvious dangers. There is the risk that in expressing its views of what level of wage increases are economically bearable, the Government would express in terms dangerously like the old norms—which it would then have to defend with the same risky rigidity as past governments have done.

Or again, the Government could find itself in a gigantic bargaining operation in which the unions would demand again to influence policy well outside their proper remit in exchange for a wage restraint that they would renounce soon after they have got what they wanted. Of course, the Government ought to talk to the unions more easily about economic policy generally than it has done and for that National Economic and Development Council (Neddy) is probably the right forum. It is favoured for that purpose by both Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Prior.

But it is not a substitute for proper consultation within each industry and the area of public employment individually, nor for the right sort of political sensitivity on the part of each minister who has wage bargaining (directly or indirectly) on his plate. Each sector of state employment from the heavy industries to the welfare services, presents a different problem and each, therefore, needs its own forum. This could be far more useful than creating out of Neddy a new inflated talking shop which would only assist the striking of attitudes in a crisis.

For each area of public employment the Government should make its calculations about popular support, and then decide with the same callous opportunism as con-

fronted the Callaghan Government when it fell foul of some of the health service employees, the Government would surely be rescued by overwhelming public support. It would probably be the same in an irresponsible strike within the public utilities.

But with steel, it is dealing with a basic industry that is a near monopoly, and in which every commercial judgment is challenged as a political judgment. If the steel industry were denationalized, the Government could not possibly be in the position it is now in, and it baffles me why it did not immediately take up Mr Sims' suggestion that the parts scheduled for closure might be offered for private sale. (The official answer is that ministers did not want to get the closures mixed up with pay bargaining, but they have now apparently hinted to him that it might be considered.) And likewise, why does not the Government start moving towards a gradual sale to private ownership (not crudely or suddenly) of British Leyland? So long as the Government is responsible for loss-making industries, they will continue to make losses, and the Government will be politically forced to make every effort to impose responsibility on them.

Philosophers in practical politics have seldom been successful, especially when they have tried to apply an ideal formula to an existing situation. The only exception is why Plato failed in Syracuse. New beginnings are a luxury that economists can afford to contemplate in their intellectual constructions—but not politicians. It is not the Government's ideas that are wrong but its manner of applying them.

Bernard Levin

To the devil with this English Disease

Back to the Festival Hall, this time for Busoni's *Doktor Faust*, an opera I have been glimpsing out of, as it were, the corner of my ear for about 30 years without ever having heard it. It is a fascinating work and I shall have something to say about it in a moment, but first there is a little more to be said on the subject of programme notes; the ones for this performance avoided the glibberish I was castigating last week, but were hopelessly inadequate none the less.

The first, and worst, inadequacy was presumably not the responsibility of the note-writer: the programme ought to have included the entire libretto. It has been done before with concert performances of Faust, and more familiar works, and should certainly have been done with this. It is possible that the owners of the rights were demanding a substantial fee for a reproduction, as they would have been entitled to do but, if so, the BBC, whose performance it was, should have paid for it. The programme contained 76 pages, including the cover, and of these no fewer than 63 consisted entirely of advertisements, which must have brought in a tidy penny. Mind you, the BBC, so the programme was not confined to the BBC; after discovering that the programme contained no libretto, I went to the Festival Hall bookshop to buy one, only to be told that Breitkopf and Härtel (the publishers) had sold out their copies on sale-or-return terms, so the RFF had not ordered any at all. This, if you please, for a work with which not 50 people in a house of some 1,500 could possibly have been familiar, and for which a sale of a couple of hundred copies would therefore have been certain.

This depressingly familiar provincialism was made worse by the absurd sketchiness of the synopsis hidden away among the advertisements for building societies, fur coats, drink, finance-houses, motor-cars, banks and furniture, not to mention the page-and-a-half devoted to photographs of conductors not involved in any way with the performance. The last sentence of the programme notes read: "In an age of sensationalism, Busoni's spiritual testament is bound to be revealed and discovered only gradually". I can only say that what he came from concerned had certainly done their bit to put off the day as long as possible.

But the mysterious strength of the music, and the drama in it, worked nevertheless; partly, perhaps even mainly,

because of the strength and drama of the story itself, one of the two dominant archetypes of the post-Renaissance world. (Faust makes his first recognizable appearance around the middle of the sixteenth century. Don Juan some 80 years later.) It is not surprising that Faust (there was a real Dr. Faust, with a distinct whiff of brimstone clinging to him) has attracted opera composers, as well as playwrights, novelists and short-story writers, for the starkness of the choice, and the inexorability of the trafficker's fate, are the very stuff from which the nation of operas is made. No doubt Mr Harold Rosenthal knows of at least 90 operatic Fausts, and can sing fully half of them from end to end, but most of us will have to be content with three versions: Gounod's, Boito's and Busoni's. Gounod's, used to be the mainstay of every Covent Garden season, but it had not been done for decades when the Royal Opera revived it a few years ago; I went in much trepidation, and was astonished to find that the production was so good, and the performance so good, that I actually shook hands with the greatest of them all, John Brownlee, one night in Gerard Evans's dressing-room, the second with the man who sang the Devil's role in the Covent Garden Faust, and produced some almost incredible ham acting in doing so. (At one point, when he was rolling about on the floor, he struck his head right into the prompter's box, thus causing the startled repetition to announce afterwards that he was going to bring a water-pistol to the next performance and play it vigorously if there should be any more of such mayhem.) He excelled a good deal of ribald comment among those used to a somewhat more sophisticated style of operatic performance, where, upon the poor fellow went back of a couple of lines, he was (possibly from chagrin) promptly fell down dead. (In the concert version of *Mefistofele*, with no opportunity to



Cesare Siepi, one of the two finest Don Giovanni...

"act", he was excellent; *De mehis*. That earlier performance of *Mefistofele* in the Festival Hall provided one of the most charming operatic vignettes in my opera-going experience. The opera-goer (in Boito's version, as in Gounod's, Faust escapes his due) indicates his rage at seeing the quarry slip through his fingers by punctuating the final celestial chorus with a series of piercing commission-

aire's cab-whistles, but Siepi, it seemed, could not burst her lungs in full view of a packed Festival Hall, as with two fingers in the corners of her mouth, and her face turning a vivid shade of purple, she emitted a series of screeches that would have had the Queen Mary's steam struck dumb with envy and mortification.

Busoni's operatic version is far more austere than those of either his French or his Italian

predecessor, but far more profound, too. Some of the symbolism in the telling of the story shows a very remarkable philosophical imagination, and the music, though hardly your fine-spun cantilena, demands—and repays—the closest attention.

The greatest of all modern Fausts is Thomas Mann's *Adrian Leverkühn*, an allegory both of the war and of Nazism, and, though, of course—Mann was far too subtle and complex a writer to be so easily classifiable—much more besides. I suppose no one could now convince us with a Faust that included real damnation: Mann's secular equivalent was the insanity of terminal syphilis. You would need a Wagner at least (he did write a *Faust Overture*) to do operatic justice to such a novel. It is not too difficult to see why Faust as a type came to occupy the central place he did in European culture; if the original Faust had not lived when he did, it would have been necessary to invent him. The man who must know everything, who must have every experience, who must inquire into each mystery, was modern man coming to birth; his middle name was surely Prometheus. And who shall say that Europe has not been punished for this? Faust's damnation with seven times seventy damnations? I would not be surprised to learn that there is a version in which Faust ends in Auschwitz: no, two versions in which he ends there respectively as victim and guard.

A recent, very successful Fausticheer is Mr D. J. Enright, whose volume of poems in the theme, *A Faust Book*, appeared last year. Mr Enright's style is ironic, possibly the only approach possible today, but he manages to communicate the feeling of the employee in Faust's heart which is the essence of the legend and for which, I suppose, damnation is itself a metaphor. (The emphasis is on the last of the metaphors: is no less part of it, but any Faust worth damnation is obviously on the other side of the Mephistophelian coin. Who tempts us but ourselves?) Enough for today: I do not suppose I shall ever see Busoni's version, but it is a shame that this country, but it is done from time to time in Germany and I may yet encounter it in my wanderings. No doubt Mephistopheles could arrange a private performance for me, with the already strong links between aid and trade will be further strengthened.

Happily perhaps, the Government's room for manoeuvre is reduced not just by the long-term nature of aid programmes,

but by the increasing proportion of British aid which is dispensed not bilaterally but multilaterally, through the European Economic Community and the World Bank. This has risen from nine per cent in 1970 to an estimated 30 per cent. In the case of the European Development Fund, each member state pays a fixed percentage, so no cut can be made there.

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The broad conclusion of the aid policy review, announced yesterday by Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development responsible for aid, is that in these difficult times, Britain's aid policy must give greater emphasis to Britain's political, commercial and industrial inter-

ests. The responsible department is the Overseas Development Administration, formerly the Ministry, which was thrust back under the wing of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by the Conservatives last May. Since then it has resembled nothing so much as a pre-operative patient being pored over by successive teams of surgeons, scalpels glinting. A senior official believes he counted nine concurrent reviews at one stage.

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but by the increasing proportion of British aid which is dispensed not bilaterally but multilaterally, through the European Economic Community and the World Bank. This has risen from nine per cent in 1970 to an estimated 30 per cent. In the case of the European Development Fund, each member state pays a fixed percentage, so no cut can be made there.

Multilateral aid costs nothing to administer. But its recipients cannot be hand-picked; it cannot be "tied"—as is 75 per cent of Britain's bilateral aid—to the purchase of British goods and services. At present, Britain's bilateral aid goes to no fewer than 120 countries. This is probably too many to make administrative sense, and some are likely to be cut out.

Finally, there is the question raised in these pages by Professor Peter Bauer, of the London School of Economics: is development aid worse than the aid of the East? The answer is a resounding "yes". This is probably too many to make administrative sense, and some are likely to be cut out.

One imagines Sir Leo Piliavsky's Quango hunters, Sir Derek Rayner's waste eliminators, and the anonymous analysts of the inter-departmental aid policy review—another one has been mauling the British Council—and of the British Council's "review" of the aid of the East, as they trip over each other on their way to the operating theatre.

The broad conclusion of the aid policy review, announced yesterday by Mr Neil Marten, Minister for Overseas Development responsible for aid, is that in these difficult times, Britain's aid policy must give greater emphasis to Britain's political, commercial



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEANINGLESS TRIBUNAL

United Nations has a mental responsibility to preserve international law. It also has the task of settling international disputes by peaceful means appropriate. The continued capture of the hostages in Iran has compelled the United Nations to intervene in the pursuit of the law. In giving its imprimatur to the five-man Commission investigating the alleged crimes of a former Shah of Iran, the United Nations is playing a serious game. It is saying, in effect, that it is prepared to submit to one of the most serious and blatant acts of international illegality of the kind in the hope of gaining release of the American hostages, and promoting the restoration of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. It is no doubt with the best of intentions that the United Nations agreed to the appointment of a Commission, and it is to be hoped that as a result the capture will soon be set free. But it created an unfortunate precedent which could greatly diminish the UN's reputation and integrity: it has conferred respectability on international terrorism by government.

The Commission has been set up as a direct response to blackmail. A government guilty of a gross violation of international law has been allowed to dictate the terms on which it may—and there is no certainty that it will—cease its illegal conduct. The very existence of the Commission is a capitulation to terrorism. The composition of the Commission is equally suspect. The Ayatollah Khomeini has, in effect, had the power of veto over the Commission's membership. No one unacceptable to him was eligible. This is not to suggest that those appointed will approach their task dishonestly; but they are the chosen judges of a criminal party to the dispute they are considering. That must destroy their claim to be regarded as impartial.

The investigation will meet not even the most basic principles of natural justice. There will be no independent scrutiny of the evidence, no cross-examination of witnesses, no attempt to ensure that any denial or explanation or defence on the part of the former Shah is heard and taken into account. It will be an entirely one-sided affair, staged-managed by the Iranians to achieve a particularly result.

The Commission will, moreover, be in session with the hostages still in captivity, and no assurance has been given publicly by the Iranians that they will be freed before the Commission finishes its work. It is likely that an agreement has been reached, in private, for their release, but the possibility still exists that the fate of the hostages will become conditional on the findings of the Commission being satisfactory to the Iranian government.

No investigatory commission, so tainted in the circumstances in which it was set up, so suspect in the composition of its members, so subject to pressure during its hearings, so unfair in its procedures, could possibly reach conclusions acceptable to the international community. Whatever its findings, they cannot be given any credence or respectability. It is especially important that they should not be accepted by Panama as valid evidence in support of a request for the former Shah's extradition. The Shah may indeed have committed or ordered or allowed many of the crimes alleged against him, but this Commission is not the body to establish that. The United Nations has participated in a shabby device for an honourable purpose. The device may work, but the instrument used has no validity.

NEUTRAL AFGHANISTAN

Nine seldom find it easy to reach a common view, especially on foreign affairs. Afghanistan imposed a particularly difficult task because so many interests were involved. The British Government is easy to take a strong stand against Soviet aggression because it has relatively slender military and economic relations with the Soviet Union, and no domestic complications in the area of policy. For President Giscard d'Estaing it was more difficult because of his higher level of trade and closer political relations with the east, and because of the domestic requirement to continue demonstrating solidarity with the United States. For the West German government the challenge was more difficult and complex. Germany has roughly four times the level of trade with the Soviet Union, buys considerable quantities of Soviet oil and has invested deeply in industrial relations with her neighbours. She had to be not only this but also essential relations with the United States, which is more frankly acknowledged. Her initial response was, therefore, confused and inadequate. Even now, disagreements remain over what to do but fortunately there is a spreading awareness of the wider threat that could develop if Soviet aggression is not checked. It is clear that whatever the Soviet reasons for invading Afghanistan the continuing presence there of substantial Soviet forces creates a new and dangerous situation. This must have contributed to the relatively harmonious meeting of the foreign ministers of the Nine in Rome on Tuesday. More important was that Lord Carrington's proposal that Afghanistan be accorded some kind of neutral status enabled the Nine to move on from the punitive to the positive.

The proposal is a good one as far as it goes. It points the way towards a lasting arrangement for an unstable area and it offers the Russians a way out of Afghanistan if they want one. Moscow's discouraging first response need not be taken as the last word. The Soviet leaders cannot relish the prospect of prolonged guerrilla warfare. If they are really interested in security rather than in further conquest they can hardly fail to develop some interest in a solution of this sort. If, on the other hand, they are set on extending their influence the proposal will force them to show this.

UMBS DOWN FOR MR ROBINSON

Michael Edwards got it right when he came to the point that the Longbridge plant in Leyland was not destined to pull their house down a stake of their sacked comrade Derek Robinson. Mr Robinson, who came to the meeting by the management, martyred also by the men, they come to canonize him a fullness of time, as he is said to hold a palm frond in his hand. In the meantime, as an awful example of happenings to powerful shop-drops who abuse the interests of the mood of the people's representatives.

latest score in the battle of Leyland is in favour of the management. The ballots on the recovery plan and on the reputation of Mr Robinson, the convener who advocated disruption of that plan after its approval, have both gone the management's way by crushing majorities. The ballot on the current pay offer went the other way on a much closer vote. It was an instruction to go back and negotiate a better deal. Sir Michael Edwards repeated yesterday that he has no money with which to up the offer without productivity in return. That is what Sir Charles Villiers has been telling the steel workers. The difference is that at British Leyland the workforce appears to be on the brink of believing it; at British Steel they are not.

Among the managerial skills required in the chairmen of

public corporations in commercial difficulties the Montgomery-like quality of leadership of men stands high. It is much more than the knack of sounding inspirational on public occasions. It is the double gift of being able to construct intelligible plans that have some hope of working, and being able to communicate those plans to the people affected with the aid of a few strong and simple ideas, carrying the conviction that what is said is meant. Lord Robens had it at the Coal Board and Sir Michael Edwards has it at British Leyland. Even that is not proof against disaster, and neither Sir Michael's leadership nor the positive response it evokes in a demoralized workforce may be enough to keep the hulk afloat. But combined they are the last best chance.

Fagan misleads us

colours Barker is right to draw on (February 9) to the problem of finding beneficial uses for listed buildings, but not to the fact that the proposed Pic-Vic building was unoccupied for many years. When it was eventually demolished it was not because he overturned his own recommendation to demolish the building. The fact that it was unoccupied for many years is not a reason for its demolition. The fact that it was unoccupied for many years is not a reason for its demolition.

Trade unions and the law

From Mr Norman Stampier
Sir, Mr Keith Fagan's thoughtful letter (February 9) is a refreshing change from the vituperation and unsupported assertions which characterize many of your correspondents' contributions to the debate on trade union power. All the same, I think his conclusion is wrong and should like to explain why.

A union is not a person (except perhaps as a legal fiction) and it is surely nonsense to attribute to it either the possession of power or the experiencing of human sentiments. It is individual trade union leaders who wield the power and express the opinions. Thus when Mr Fagan says "unions will see any future legislation which seeks to limit their powers as an infringement of the rights of their members" the statement is meaningless. Substitute "union leaders" for "unions" and the statement becomes clear, but few rank-and-file unionists would agree with the opinion if they understood its implications.

Again, in his last paragraph, Mr

Fagan misleads us and himself unwittingly by failing to distinguish between trade union leaders and ordinary members. He says: "I think it [limitation of power] has to come because trade unionists themselves see a need to limit their powers". That is asking for superhuman forbearance, but of course it is the leaders' power that needs limiting and the ordinary members who should see the need. Perhaps they do already and all that is needed is legislation to impose democracy on their leaders!

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN STAMPIER,
14 Acland Court,
Colchester,
Essex.
February 15.

Away from prying eyes

From Mrs John Stephens
Sir, It is hardly credible! As reported in your columns (February 18, page 3) a poultry farmer sells some hens whose condition arouses the concern of the RSPCA, and the Secretary of the National Egg Producers' Retailers Association advises him and others like him to do what? To ensure that their birds are so well kept that no RSPCA intervention will be called for?

No. To beware of "old ladies secretly working for animal welfare" and of customers who want to "wander round" the premises! Out of his own mouth he, and his methods, stand condemned.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY C. STEPHENS,
The Vicarage,
Thursley,
Godalming,
Surrey.
February 18.

Cost to Britain of farm proposals

From Mr Wynne Godley
Sir, The President of the National Farmers' Union (February 19) argues quite correctly that the adoption of the Commission's proposals for a small rise in the common prices would be disadvantageous if not "disastrous" for British farmers.

The reason for this is that because sterling is so strong it is no longer possible, through green pound devaluations, for our farmers to obtain price increases in excess of common prices.

We thus face an extraordinary new predicament. If common prices do not rise much, our own farming industry will have its real income substantially and progressively reduced. But the British taxpayer and consumer will have to go on paying out around £1,500m a year in foreign exchange, mainly for the support of foreign agriculture.

On the other hand, if common prices are raised significantly, as the President of the NFU proposes, the cost to the British taxpayer and consumer will be increased far beyond the £1,500m at present in prospect.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge.
February 18.

Anthem for youth

From Mr Peter Doughty
Sir, The opinions expressed by Mr Stephen Smith (February 15) on the subject of the reserve forces is unfortunately indicative of the widespread ignorance of the role and training standards of the modern Territorial Army.

No one is hesitant to contradict a gentleman who so confidently speaks for "the vast majority of young people in this country" the TA of today is not an "amateur conscriptable" nor is it merely a quantitative reinforcement of the Regular Army.

Many of our young people, whose outlooks, mercifully, tend to eclipse the noble thoughts of Mr Smith, the TA has shown great success in attaining the high standards of technical and professional skill that all of us recognize as being vital if a viable defence structure is to be maintained.

I share with Mr Smith his abhorrence of any rationalization of warfare, for the horrors that it will unleash will be too dreadful for most of us even to contemplate. The reality, however, as the recent increases in TA recruiting figures reported in *The Times* last week seem to indicate, not everyone has decided to follow Mr Smith's disavowal of such a negative resolve as a result of such abhorrence.

It is heartening at least to think that in common with many such young people, I share both the belief that Nazism must be ready and able to meet all aggressive acts of the Soviet bloc with a response at a similar level, and that a volunteer reserve force has an increasingly important contribution to make to further such ability, and share the hope that the present Government's policies are a move towards such increased readiness.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
PETER DOUGHTY,
219 Redland Road,
Redland,
Bristol.
February 15.

A doctor's time

From Mr David Caro
Sir, I run a large and busy accident and emergency department in London. We have a happy working relationship with the police and from time to time it is necessary for doctors from this department to attend court to give evidence. Many of the courts, especially those close to the hospital, make special arrangements so that the doctors' time is not wasted; however, on other occasions a doctor is called to court, only to find that the case has been adjourned or that his evidence is not required that day.

I am prompted to write this letter today, because one of my junior doctors has spent the whole morning in court. This is the second instance for the same case, as on the previous occasion he was not required because the case was adjourned, and again the same thing has happened today.

I realize the courts do have their own difficulties in getting all the witnesses present, but it seems to me to be unnecessary to call a doctor to a court house before it is certain that he will be required that day. There must be some indication that a case is unlikely to be heard, and although I instruct the doctors to impress on the police that they should not be asked to attend unless they are definitely required, on two occasions whole mornings have been wasted and patient care here has been delayed.

Perhaps the authorities that organize court will read this letter and devise a simple system to save professional time.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CARO,
Consultant in Charge,
Accident and Emergency Department,
St Bartholomew's Hospital,
West Smithfield, EC1.
February 13.

A lively art

From Mr Trevor Harvey
Sir, Mr Sam Heppner (February 19) suggests that the Post Office should commemorate the deaths of Elgar, Delius, and possibly Norman O'Neill in 1954 by special issues of stamps. Without wishing to detract from the gifts of the last-named may I remind Mr Heppner and the Post Office that Gustav Holst died in 1934?

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR HARVEY,
1a Chardwood Place, SW1.
February 19.

Better 'wet' or 'hard faced'?

From Lord Alport
Sir, David Wood's comment (February 18) on Sir Ian Gilmour's Oxford lecture does not do full justice to the historic attitudes in the Conservative party, which the speaker sought to analyse.

The Labour landslide of 1945 certainly came as a profound shock to the Tory Party. Although a leader in the *Times* soon after the results were announced concluded that it was probable that there would not be another Conservative government during the remainder of the twentieth century, many of the younger men and women in the party saw the defeat as a heavenly opportunity to refashion Conservatism in the light of the huge social and economic changes which had taken place since 1914.

We wanted to get away from the legacy of the "hard faced business man" who had done well out of the (First) War, the bitterness created by the General Strike, mass unemployment, the social injustices of the *laissez-faire* economic policies and the prospect of class confrontation.

Under the leadership of Churchill, Butler, Macmillan, Eden, Woolton and others, we succeeded. The result was that the Conservative party provided Britain with a

government for 13 consecutive years; the nation avoided the social breakdown which so many of its well-to-do supporters believed was inevitable and the vast majority of the population enjoyed the benefits of rising standards and full employment.

What concerns the Tory Democrat section of the party, who are apparently now denounced as "wet", is that the "hard-faced" element, whose attitudes derive from nineteenth century Whig traditions in politics and economics, now again appear to be in control of the country's and the party's destiny.

All parties in a democracy are to some extent coalitions and there is room for a variety of different points of view among their supporters. But a Conservative government in the 1980s which ceases to be a "Tory Democrat" based, which loses the support of the working population and forgets that the only reason why it is now installed in Westminster is because its predecessors after 1945 revolutionized the social and economic attitudes of the party of the inter-war years, is going to land itself and the country, sooner or later, in big trouble.

Yours faithfully,
ALPORT,
House of Lords.
February 18.

Asia's spheres of influence

From Sir Olaf Caroe
Sir, The situation arising over the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is quickly and inevitably becoming so much historical background, that it is hard to compress constructive comment within the space of a letter. I attempt here to focus on a few issues of strategic importance, looking to the future but in the framework of history.

1. The Durand Line, accepted by Britain and successive Afghan rulers, is a difficult frontier. Neither the Raj nor its Pakistani successor has established full administration up to it. Moreover, when Britain was in India, the Afghan Government, and notably Sardar Daud, put in a claim for the reversal to Durran rule of the tribal belt, and even of the North West Frontier Province itself up to the Indus. This concept is known as Pashtunistan. Many of the Afghan refugees, said by President Zia to number half a million, must be in this tribal belt, a sort of Alsacia.

2. The partition of the sub-continent in 1947 was carried out with scant regard to the position of the successor states on the map of Asia. Partition has thus created a sub-continent as a unit, for the successors are divided by ideologies as bitter as those of Ireland, but on an immense scale. President Ayub, during his decade of power, proposed a joint approach to defence of the sub-continent against frontiers, but Pandit Nehru would have none of it. Such an approach would have implied that India regarded the Durand Line as being vital to her defence as to that of Pakistan, and conversely that Pakistan would eye anxious absorption of Tibet or Nepal by China. But such an approach has broken on

the rivalry between the two states over Kashmir.

3. On the external front one bastion, Tibet, fell to China in 1950. The other main bastion, Afghanistan, has now fallen to the Soviets. The Durranis, Afghan rulers since 1747, have fallen.

4. As a result of (2) and (3), a sort of quadrilateral pattern has evolved, India forming an axis with Moscow, and Pakistan with Peking. There is within the sub-continent a pale shadow of the Sino-Soviet rift.

5. In 1971, at the time of the emergence of Bangladesh, which split Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi made a treaty with Russia by which, owing to the Russian veto, the Pakistan case was prevented from coming before the United Nations (see *South Asian Crisis*, by Robert Jackson, MEP, 1975).

Mrs Gandhi, riding high on her fresh electoral triumph, owes the USSR a heavy debt. In all matters relating to defence each of our successors looks over the shoulder at the other.

6. It has been fashionable to surmise that the next Russian move may be, by way of Baluchistan and possibly also Pakistan, to take control of the sources and routes of oil. This may well occur, but it is well to bear in mind that Moscow may aim higher, working on Indo-Pakistan rivalries, to establish an overriding influence within the whole sub-continent.

7. There is a danger that ground between Kabul and Delhi, Pakistan may figure as a sort of Poland in Asia.

Yours faithfully,
OLAF CAROE,
Newham House,
Newham Lane,
Steyning,
West Sussex.
February 13.

Dissidents and psychiatry

From Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, FBA, and others
Sir, The large attendance at a recent public meeting in London confirmed the revival felt in this country at the Soviet regime's continuing practice of internment of its critics in mental institutions, then forcibly administering drugs to them until they "recover".

We share this revulsion, and call on concerned people among our readers to express their views forcefully to the Soviet Ambassador and other Soviet authorities about three current cases which exemplify different aspects of an alarming situation.

Dr Samyon Gluzman recently emerged, in very bad health, from seven years in a strict-regime labour camp, imposed for calmly (and rationally) exposing the corruption of his psychiatric profession. But he must still serve three further years of Siberian exile. He deserves to be released without further delay and allowed to emigrate.

Mr Levky Tarlyva is a Ukrainian worker, Catholic and poet, currently imprisoned in the Dnepropetrovsk special psychiatric hospital for circulating a long letter about a previous internment. Latest reports say that he has been reduced to a serious condition by intensive drug treatment, and compare his state to that of Mr Leonid Plyushch when

held in Dnepropetrovsk in 1973-76. His wife, a doctor, has appealed for Western intervention, and now the World Psychiatric Association, at the request of Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists, is investigating the case.

Over the last three years Moscow's unofficial "Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes" has helped brave psychiatrists, carefully documented this and several hundred other cases: the documentation now exceeds 1,000 pages. Members of the Commission have been harassed and arrested.

Recently the KGB have threatened Mr Vyacheslav Bakhtin, a prominent member and a computer scientist, who is apparently their next intended victim. A strong Western stand in his defence could save him from arrest.

We hope that pressure from our readers will help to persuade the Soviet authorities to abandon these sinister politico-medical practices.

Yours faithfully,
RALF DAHRENDORF,
JANNEZ,
DESMOND POND,
RAWLINSON,
SAINSBURY,
LEONARD SCHAPIRO,
DONALD SOPER,
21 Admirals Walk,
St Albans,
Hertfordshire.

Abortion law changes

From Mr John Smeaton
Sir, Mr Rhodes James' claim (February 13) that the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children urged electors to vote against him is completely untrue. Nowhere in his leaflet, dated 1979, is there any mention of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

There was nothing clandestine about SPUC's activities. Since our inception in 1967, at by-elections and general elections, we have done everything possible to inform the electorate of candidates' views on abortion and we shall be exercising our democratic right to do so in future elections.

Moreover, in no letter circulated by SPUC has it been said of Mr Rhodes James that he favours abortion on demand, although if the letter to which he refers, dated 1979, is what we did say, it was in the letter, was as follows: "In the two years since he was elected to Parliament he has voted against two Bills presented which were aimed at curbing the abortion on demand situation which exists at the present time and as many people as possible should be made aware of this."

Mr Rhodes James should face facts. The Lane Committee (Vol 1, paras 200 and 201) and the select committee received evidence from British Medical Association and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists witnesses among others showing that abortion on demand is available.

As for Mr Rhodes James' lament that we described him as a bitter

opponent of "any amendment to the 1967 Act", the exact wording of our letter was that he had "shown himself to be one of our most bitter opponents in the fight to reform the abortion law and obtain greater protection for unborn children".

I, frankly, am a bitter opponent of abortion. Had I voted twice in the House of Commons against the Abortion Act I would not care to suppose who wrote to whom to say so. Nor would I have the impudence to challenge anyone's right to do so.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SMEATON,
General Secretary,
Society for the Prevention of Unborn Children,
7 Tuford Street,
Westminster, SW1.

Higher finance?

From Mr Gordon Burrows
Sir, I am delighted that the Government has scrapped the "taxer". Much for our sakes!

Rugby violence at Twickenham

From Mr B. H. Gale
Sir, I have been associated with rugby football for the whole of my life, not only as a player and referee but also as master-in-charge of the game at this school. No doubt supporters of the English XV are now delighted that their team has at last defeated Wales, and it may be that the representative members of the Rugby Football Union are, to some extent, sharing that delight. Yet it is my hope that both of these groups will find it possible, with the benefit of hindsight and sober reflection, to temper their delight with a proper recognition of the appalling events which took place at Twickenham on Saturday (February 16), events for which a more suitable venue might have been some place behind bars.

It is profoundly worrying that the game of rugby, which has flourished for so long, should have been debased in so crude a fashion merely because winning is so important.

Of course it is also my hope that the game will continue to form a part of our way of life in the schools. But if the behaviour and attitudes and approach to their game of the English and Welsh teams are anything to go by, then we may well have to consider, with respect to Rugby School, changing the name of our game, so that the standards to which we have aspired for so long are not associated with those on display at Twickenham on Saturday.

Yours faithfully,
B. H. GALE,
St Edward's School,
Oxford.
February 17.

From Mr H. W. Yoxall
Sir, I have watched rugby union internationals almost continuously since the England v New Zealand match in 1906. Lately, I should add, on television—where, by the way, one sees the foul and dangerous play more clearly than from the stands and often it would appear, more clearly than the referee does.

After last Saturday's match at Twickenham (February 16) I have formed the opinion that rucking and mauling in the present fiercely competitive atmosphere, are too dangerous. What is supposed to be a game. Where the player whose head is stranded anywhere near the ball—or anywhere on the ground, for that matter, I think, reluctantly, that as regards the scrumage the rugby league rules should be adopted for play after a tackle.

It is ironical that the professional game is less dangerous than the supposedly amateur one has become.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. YOYALL,
10 CAMPDEN HOUSE COURT,
42 Gloucester Walk, W8.
February 19.

A mature view

From Archdeacon Sam Woodhouse
Sir, I write to crave the courtesy of your columns to air a subject before the Budget is fired in all details by the Chancellor.

Old age pensioners seldom, if ever, grumble about their financial lot; they need someone to champion their cause for them.

As Archdeacon to the retired clergy in the diocese of Bath and Wells I can speak for well over four hundred old age pensioners (over two hundred clergy plus their wives and families).

It would be a considerable help to all of us, and, of course, all other OAPs, if we could be let off paying at least some of the television licence fee. All of it would be best, obviously, but even a third or half would be a great bonus.

I need not labour the point that selective viewing on television, as old age creeps on and immobility increases either from physical slowing down or increased petrol costs, assumes an ever greater importance for entertainment and mental stimulus.

And so on behalf of all old age pensioners and particularly the retired clergy, I appeal to Sir Geoffrey Howe to make provision in his Budget to relieve us of some or all the TV licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
SAM WOODHOUSE,
Archdeacon Emeritus of London,
Under Copse Cottage,
Redhill,
Wokingham,
Bristol.
February 19.

Calm in a teacup

From Professor Tien Ju-Kang
Sir, It has been nearly 32 years now since I wrote to you about the English way of making tea (April 10, 1948). With the innovation of bags and invasion of instant coffee, I have found in my review a sharp decline in interest in your traditional ritual.

For a nation consuming a quarter of all the tea grown in the world each year, why couldn't you make it little more elaborate and tasteful than enjoyment of wine? Being an oriental, I am longing nostalgically for a good old fashioned Scottish cup of tea. Well-made strong tea will no doubt have some sobering effect on this bewildering life of today.

Yours faithfully,
TIEN JU-KANG,
Clare Hall,
Hersham Road,
Cambridge.
February 16.

Sight screen

From Mr Nicholas Butt
Sir, It seems a fitting epitaph to the memory of the British Empire that a cricket match, held to commemorate the great days of yore when the sun never set over our Sovereign's lands, should be halted by the sun suddenly vanishing from the sky.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS D. BUTT,
University College,
The Castle,
Durham.
February 16.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: His Excellency Sir Andrew G. Capad was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Italy to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following members of the Embassy who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty: Signor Ludovico Incisa di Camerana (Minister), Captain Alfredo Civetta (Defence), Signor Atanachi, Signor Stefano Biondo (Counsellor), Signor Orsini (Counsellor), Signor Mario Guidi (Counsellor), Signor Guido Lenzi (Counsellor), Signor Giuseppe Dell' Innocenti (Air Attache) and Colonel Angelo Bonaldi (Military Attache).

Signora Capad had the honour of being received by the Queen. Sir Michael Palliser (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs), who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty, was present and the Householder in Waiting were in attendance.

The Lord Thorneycroft had an audience of the Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Member of the Order of the Companions of the Bath and with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

Air Commodore Sir Archie Winkfield had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested the following had the honour of being received by the Queen: Miss Felicity Simpson, whom Her Majesty invested with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fourth Class), and Mrs David Hodgson and Mrs Patricia Rankine, whom the Queen invested with the insignia of Members of the Royal Victorian Order (Fifth Class).

The Queen this afternoon opened the Hope Town Salvation Army Hostel at Whitechapel, London, E.1.

Having been received upon arrival by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets (Councillor Mrs Eva Armstrong) and the General of the Salvation Army (General Arnold Brown), Her Majesty unveiled a commemorative plaque and later toured the Hostel with Major Jean Bruce (Administrator).

The Hon. Lady Morrison, Mr. William Heseltine and Lieutenant-Commander Robert Guy, RN, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning chaired the opening of the Panel for the Duke of Edinburgh's Design Prize at the Design Centre, Haymarket.

Major Justin Fenwick was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, as President, this afternoon attended a Council Meeting of the Royal Yachting Association at the Little Ship Club, Upper Thames Street, EC4.

The Duke of Edinburgh presented the "Country Life Farming and Wildlife Award at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, WC2.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Sportsman's Night in aid of the Sunshine Fund for Blind Babies and Young People at the Players' Theatre, Villiers Street, WC2.

Wing Commander Antony Nicholson was in attendance.

The Prince of Wales was present this evening at a Gun Room Dinner at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, today visited British Rail Midlands Region and Chester Barrie Limited at Crewe and later visited V. G. Isolopes Limited at Winsford.

Captain John Treadwell was in attendance.

The Duchess of Kent today visited HMS Kent in the Pool of London.

Mrs Alan Henderson was in attendance.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. H. Burden and Miss M. M. Percival
The engagement is announced between Pater Henry, son of Mr and Mrs P. H. Burden, of Ebury, Buckinghams, and Diana Mary, younger daughter of Mr Robert and the Hon Mrs Percival of Stratford Hall, Penkridge, Staffordshire.

Mr R. J. Barnes and Miss K. S. Mullis
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs R. Barnes, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D. E. Mullis, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Signor M. Colletti and Miss E. M. Boulton
The engagement is announced between Mauro, eldest son of Signor and Signora Giuseppe Colletti, of Bergamo, Italy, and Bridget, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Arnold Boulton, of Cookham, Berkshire.

Mr N. J. Cross and Miss J. S. Langford
The engagement is announced between Nicholas John, younger son of Mr C. W. R. Cross, of Ipswich, Suffolk, and the late Mrs Cross, and the late Mrs Cross, daughter of the late Mr Desmond Langford and of Mrs Langford, of London, SW6.

Mr R. Fildes and Miss E. Morris
The engagement is announced between Richard Fildes, of Hunters Gate, Crowthorne, Berkshire, and Tilly, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W. G. Morris, of The Barracks, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Mr T. C. Hestall and Miss E. Balfour
The engagement is announced between Timothy, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hestall, of Hooklands Farm, Ashington, Sussex, and Belinda, daughter of Mr and Mrs W. C. Balfour, of Winterville Hall, Dursley, Hampshire.

Mr I. M. Kerr and Miss V. Dowling
The engagement is announced between Ian, only son of the late Ronald M. Kerr and Mrs E. G. Humphrey, of 55 Harrington Gardens, London, SW7, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dowling, of Knoll House, Pinkney Green, Berkshire.

Wakefield Cathedral
appeals for £450,000

An appeal is to be launched today by the Wakefield Cathedral Appeal Committee for the renovation of Wakefield Cathedral, and for a new memorial hall in tribute to the late Eric Treacy, former Bishop of Wakefield.

The original pre-norman building on the site was rebuilt in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, but extensive renovation by Sir Gilbert Scott in the 1870s. It was designated a cathedral in 1880.

Donations should be sent to the Wakefield Cathedral Appeal Development Programme, The Cathedral Vicarage, Margaret Street, Wakefield WF1 2DQ.

Sponsor meets £20,000 LSO foreign tour loss

The London Symphony Orchestra is being sponsored to the tune of £20,000 for a seven-week tour of West Germany and Austria. The money is being put up by Diners Club International to meet the deficit on the orchestra's two-week tour, which starts today in Austria.

The orchestra will give 12 concerts in 11 cities under the baton of principal conductor Claudio Abbado, and Eduardo Mata, the Mexican conductor.

Keiper of the Privy Purse

Mr Peter Tremayne Miles has been appointed by the Queen to succeed Sir Remie Maudslay as Keeper of the Privy Purse and Treasurer to the Queen when the latter retires in January 1981.

Birthdays today

Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, 70; Mr Humphrey Berkeley, 54; Professor Ruth Bowden, 65; Sir Colville Deverell, 73; Sir Trevor Evans, 78; Sir Charles Goodere, 76; Air Chief Marshal Sir Donald Hardman, 81; Sir John McGregor (Jill), 59; Sir Alan Orr, 63; Sir Rex Surridge, 81; Mr Richard Turner-Warwick, 55.

£15,000 for painting of St Peter

By Huon Mallalieu
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In a sale of middle-rank works, which made a total of £203,040 with 16 per cent bought in, an anonymous buyer paid £15,000 for a painting of St Peter preaching from the steps of the Temple, which carried an estimate of £500 to £800. It was catalogued as being in the manner of Laurent de la Hyre, and after the sale the department said that it was a variation on an altarpiece by Charles Person in Notre Dame.

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The Duchess of Kent at Westminster Pier yesterday before being entertained to lunch on board HMS Kent.

Today's engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as president, gives dinner party for honorary fellows of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Buckingham Palace, 7.30.

The Prince of Wales visits Board of Income Revenue, Somerset House, 10.

The Duke of Kent, as Grand President, attends first meeting of the Foundation of the Aged and the Sick, Freemasons' Hall, 12.15.

Princess Alexandra attends twenty-eighth annual Maple Leaf Ball of Canadian Women's Club, Grosvenor House, 8.30.

Exhibitions: The Vikings, British Museum, Great Russell Street, 10-5. The Max Mapp collection of Egyptian and tropical medicine and postal history and British Empire postage stamps, Sotheby's, West Gallery, 34-35 New Bond Street, 1.5. Julia Mann, 1

New Books

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17

GER STEVE omat and un -Chancellor oving detail

Weldon (Faber, £5.95). The most intelligent of the new force-field of fiction—particular, who, like me, Praxis (1979) is one single-minded and English novel of the may well be Puffball which, des- less behaviour of e is curiously in- even fey.

There on Mab's side, and lightning and loved sun, and warmth: and they And spring they

on the other hand, liked Praxis for its as and (as they say may welcome the in Puffball the is tempered by ture of the heroine, y, in the structural grabbing narrative, h shocks, wit and to dare you to oek in one go, has ut altogether. It is Weldon's glories, it horribly here.

starts like a mathe- zale in an exam: all and bright and was large and hand- sible. She was 32. (She is silly, add, but good; he novelist's genuine to imagine his early on, has that saken from him, and being a man.) What if (a) she goes to

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oseph, £5.50)

idn't even say you iend", a reviewer d thanked for some- d written about my said to me recently. Larrabee is friend have sent me an copy of this book, want to declare un- that it's very, very mes in layers. Layer me thriller about a accidentally discovers ousl from a huge robbery is hidden. wo: a fascinating of the extra- almost surreal, ning world of audi- for business con- sner Thorne: a warn- e real world about organized corrupt uld do (Bunce is illegal perks). Layer attitudes.

s all done in 160 th writing that's morose and sharply ("You leave them shows the tied-up man as the big heis ice) de Larrabee i. He sees, and he be. He can even ssedly and with un-

iction

s

les Simmons

Warburg, £4.95)

Were Young

at Baker

Joseph, £5.95)

Markus

d, £4.95).

is superb. as a novel given me ure and deep satis- rt. It is intricate. It ure which has major es to make on the idition.

the story of a man's a American novelist. ood, his adolescence, age and his old age ined with affection, and compassion, and onesty. It is a life ly dissected. Thorne's failures in love age, in friendship hood are chronicled of clarity.

ior successes, his

ick guide

History of China, ui and Tang China, Part 1 (Cambridge, d by Denis Twitchett.

importance of this ese history was that pr of China's terri- cultural unity took e. Though the Tang succeeded after its alter kingdoms in the y never thought of as displacing central they were temporary, I such authority could established. Much esse formative by this narrative e rise and harsh sup- Buddhism so that it er again rival the he state; the sapping e power in central

live in Somerset and he stays in town during the week? and then (b) she becomes pregnant, falls foul of country magic whilst he discovers the pleasures of metropolitan sex?

Not a great deal, is the answer to both questions, or rather not a great deal that cannot be altered at the clasp of the novelist's hands, for Mrs Weldon is both determinist and arbitrary in moving her people about. Our lives are all patterned beyond our control yet all may be changed by a little oil of mistletoe in the scones. The link is human biology, of course, of which more in a moment.

A child-wife at 28, Liffey longs to live in the country and has the financial independence to get her own way, thus breaking the supposed first law of the sexes whereby man does and woman is. Richard agrees, providing they start a family. Liffey then loses all her money, because she is the kind of woman who never opens bank statements for fear of humiliating her husband with her independent means. But then, towards the end of the story she suddenly gets a lot more. Why? It is of no importance to the plot.

Why do the vile squatters, to whom Richard and Liffey let their flat, suddenly become nice? Why are we told of possible escaping sexual offenders from a nearby jail, never to hear of them again? Why does Richard have to be discovered illegitimate as well as Liffey? Because the novelist says so. Liffey gets all the breaks, whereas Praxis, her far more compulsive predecessor, got none. Liffey is nose-diving for catastrophe from the start, but she falls to crash, and even of an appalling climax, is out

forced humour about sex, ie, what actually goes on in bed. No mean feat.

So, as you wind into the book through the successive onion-skins that begin with a factual newspaper quote, you gradually become more and more involved. When a minor goodie is killed we are given a funeral scene that is both beautifully observed and tear-to-eyes touching. In the end you are left slowly pondering. A considerable achievement. I brought off, I think, because of a splendid, easy self-confidence throughout even where it just occasionally produces an awkward roughness. You feel you are in the hands of someone who has thought long and then written short and which is the way some of the very best books have been brought about.

The Twentieth Day of January, by Ted Alibury (Granada, £4.95). The book, between a United States President's election and inauguration provides a zinging time-factor for high-level espionage writing. Admirably swift, unmistakably adult.

The Eye of the Beholder, by John Wainwright (Macmillan, £4.95). Murder and stage-magic. Real puzzle from crime-polymath Wainwright and fine example of Kestrel's Last Fictionists "Energy in equals reader-grip out."

Termination Order, by Philip Friedman (Hodder and Stoughton, £5.95). Could the CIA be dissolved? Should it? Good questions raised in human, tense, intelligent, Vienna-set

major worries and doubts, his disasters, his misery and his happiness are analysed and exposed with a precision that is at once incisive and yet gentle and loving.

That such clarity of characterization is contained in a structure so complex is a triumph.

There is no simple story line running from point A to point B.

There is no simple chronological progression.

There are 40 chapters.

Each starts with an incident in childhood and follows the theme through to old age. Gradually chapter by chapter the picture of the man is built up.

There is counterpoint and rhythm in the story telling which combine exquisitely with a terse and economic prose style. To those fascinated by technique and craftsmanship this novel is a rare treat. However there is much more to fear on. This is a novel about the changing moods of love—parental love, filial love, lust and wilting romance. It is a novel about relationships.

It is, above all, a novel about the process of aging, delicately chapter by chapter placing the wrinkles of old age on the smooth innocence of youth like a craftsman placing slivers of gold leaf on a naked metal surface.

It is a truly brilliant piece of work, consistently subtle, con-

Asia by the An Lu-shan rebellion and the Chinese defeat at the Talas River by the rising might of Islam; not least the effect on China's world outlook of neighbouring kingdoms, such as Japan, Korea and Tibet, that modelled themselves on Chinese institutions. Chinese thought and in some cases used the Chinese written language.

Tolstoy in London by Victor Lucas (Evans, £6.95). In March, 1861 an Inspector of Schools gave a letter of introduction to a Russian gentleman to visit some of them. The Inspector was Matthew Arnold, the visitor was Leo Tolstoy, then aged thirty-two, and unknown in England. One school was in Chelsea, near Cheyne Row where Carlyle was busy on Frederick Tolstoy did not yet know of Carlyle, and he revered Dickens and



St Edmund arrested and led into captivity from The Life of Saint Edmund, written and illuminated in England in the second quarter of the 12th century, now in the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York: from Monuments of Medieval Art by Robert G. Calkins (Phaidon, £9.95). The Vikings, in their old-fashioned role of raiders rather than traders, have just defeated the King of the East Angles. They promised him his life if he would share his kingdom with their war leader Ingvar. Edmund refused as a Christian to associate himself in this way with a pagan. Accordingly the Danes used him as a target for archery practice. The cult of the martyr started immediately, and his body was translated in the 10th century to Bury St Edmunds.

A seat in the stalls at the Bailey

The Last Word

An Eyewitness Account of the Thorpe Trial

By Auberon Waugh

(Michael Joseph, £6.50)

Sergeant Match: I'd prefer not to have Royalty mentioned in the context. Sir Hugh, you were in this kind of trouble before?

Dr Prentice: I'm not in trouble. Match: You must realise that this boy is bringing a serious charge against you.

Prentice: Yes, it's ridiculous. I'm a married man.

This isn't from Auberon Waugh's account of the Thorpe trial at the Old Bailey, but from Act Two of Joe Orton's *What the Butler Saw*.

Waugh reviews the trial like a play, with a cast of bizarre characters, and a farcical and ultimately mysterious plot. Mr Justice Cantley may have hoped for the finality when he said, "Re-member, I have said the last word". But he didn't get it.

We have already had one very interesting piece of paper-back journalism, the *Sunday Times* team's *Jeremy Thorpe: A Secret Life*. Waugh's book looks at the whole strange story again from his seat in the stalls on the site where Newgate jail once stood:

Lion and Bear

Britain and the Bolshevik Revolution

By Stephen White

(Macmillan, £12)

Only a professional scholar of outstanding diligence and pertinacity could write a dull account of Anglo-Soviet relations in the aftermath of the Bolshevik Revolution. Regrettably, Stephen White has achieved the feat.

Admittedly, the wearisome manoeuvres and interminable minutiae which constitute diplomatic history seldom make compelling reading. But Dr White subsidises his book "A Study in the Politics of Diplomacy" and says that it is not merely a conventional account of diplomatic tiff-for-tiffs but an examination of "the sociology of international politics". In other words, he reviews the attitude towards Russia of British socialists, imperialists and industrialists, and assesses their influence on the diplomats. It is all the more lamentable, therefore, that Dr White fails to communicate any sense of the drama implicit in the confrontation between the lion in all his imperial glory and the bear so strangely metamorphosed by what Winston Churchill called the "baboonery of Bolshevism".

Well, what can one expect from a warmed-up PhD thesis? One can expect, at least, the scholarship to be impeccable. Yet nowhere in Dr White's 61 pages of bibliography and references is mention made of that brilliant piece of detective work by Christopher Andrew, "The British Secret Service and Anglo-Soviet Relations in the 1920s" (*Historical Journal*, 1977). This article elucidates much that is evidently obscure to Dr White himself.

Briefly, what the article reveals is that British cryptographers had broken the Russian codes. Under the terms of the 1920 Trade Agreement the Russians promised to refrain from disseminating Communist propaganda, especially in Asia. This was a promise they did not keep and had no intention of keeping, for they believed world revolution to be imminent—Trotzky's idea of foreign affairs was simply to issue revolutionary proclamations and shut up shop. So British ministers gained an immediate insight into the depths of Bolshevik duplicity, the sinister

To be again himself

Souvenirs

By Roy Fuller

(London Magazine Editions, £4.95)

The Reign of Sparrows

By Roy Fuller

(London Magazine Editions, £3.95)

By the time this appears Roy Fuller will have just had his sixty-eighth birthday: a gloomy affair, one could imagine from reading these books. One wants to say, cheer up "old buffer!" as he calls himself. In a poem he writes, "Of all my portraits I say: poor likeness."

"Colonel (Retired)" or "Disgraced" stares out. Doomed to die of apoplexy; Whining moustache, jaw-line sagging.

Young Fuller survived the war—during which he wrote some of his most moving and continuously interesting poetry—and then settled down to career as a solicitor; and also to become Professor of Poetry at Oxford, win a Queen's Gold Medal for poetry, join the Athenaeum, sit on worthy Panels and become a governor of the BBC. *Souvenirs* roughly takes one to 1939. One could not conceivably guess from it what would happen to him—it is not far from being a non-book by a non-person, and this is non-sense; one suspects of a deliberate "kind. Fuller's cautious legal approach to the accuracy of memory splutters his prose with "I dare say." "I seem to" and so many probably, perhaps, its and buts as almost to constitute an art-form. But after 40 years at it, he says he still feels uneasy at being called "the poet"; the inference being that

Patric Dickinson

he would prefer "the novelist". He comes from Oldham and Blackpool; his spiritual home is Lancashire, though his accent was fairly in life shadowed by an elocutionist named Rider Boys. (Can you believe it?) His father was staggeringly handsome in a Spanish (or Jewish) way, came from Manchester, where, was a brilliant business man, and died of cancer in 1920 aged 36, when Roy was eight, his younger brother (a mysterious character in this book) four. There is indeed a queue of portly romantic Fullers trying to get in to the slim body of this "gormless shy" "embarrassed" boy and youth whose clothes, were "tony" and "nutty" and custom-built by a Blackpool tailor. The circumstances of his improbable upbringing by his left-not-too-badly-off mother are to be read here, and they make fascinating if not perhaps exactly credible (yes, the style is catching) reading.

The pier-end shows; the HMV portable playing; Jack Hilton; the boarding houses the boys were brought up in; all his mother's (Broadbent) relations—all this is faithfully recalled, yet it is as if all these characters were notes for a novel. And Fuller makes himself up too, as he goes along. This Fuller character is converted to Socialism just by reading *Wells and Shaw*, the only subject he is taught at school is Maths; as an articled clerk all he does is play bridge and bet; he doesn't fall in love, he "meets his future wife". Yet of his inner life: "I was I not possibly unhappy in early days about a life far from fulfilling its deepest and truest gifts? Later some kind of compromise was achieved and endured." What was the compromise for a young poet who had looked at his (my) conten-

Paul Barker

of a man by the stamp of one defect". Waugh sees more defects than that.

As befits so skilled a funny-man, Waugh's vision is of a diminuendo world. He sees us all through the wrong end of the telescope, and perceives an ants' nest of Lilliputians. He is indignant that he finds himself in the position of the jury, who were being asked to umpire a game called "Proof" in which the players from time to time informed them of the rules."

The echo is of Alice and her croquet game. Waugh's chapter headings evoke Beatrix Potter: "Tale of a Flopsy Bunny", "First Tale of Mr Jeremy Thorpe". Waugh sets it down as a crucial flaw in Thorpe that he dressed like a school prefect. In all this, there is something that the reviewer and the dramatic personae share. That strange fixation with childhood—which so many writers have chronicled—of those who went to English boarding schools. When Downside met Eton: then was the tug of war.

But no. Suddenly the game was cancelled. The production is what Eton came, pursued by a verdict of Not Guilty.

Michael Ratcliffe

such openness remains almost impossible.

In the story Waugh unrolls, everyone was playing parts nearly all the time. Hence the approach of his approach. Scott had changed his name twice, and claimed at one time to be the son of the Earl of Eldon. Andrew Newton, the hit man who threatened him and killed his dog "plainly enjoyed the idea of himself as a character in some American pulp crime novel". When Peter Bessell steps on stage, Thorpe's friend-turned-accuser, he is described by Waugh like this:

He had come from California, but somehow Mr Bessell gave the impression of having come from another planet. His manner was that of a creature from outer space going bravely to its execution—of some kind of somewhat reinforced by the judge's attitude towards him.

Bessell was—was a man who, in his time, has played all too many parts. And it is central to Waugh's interpretation that this is true of Thorpe, too. Otherwise Thorpe would not have ended up in that court. Waugh rejects the prosecuting counsel's suggestion that the case is a tragedy of truly Greek or Shakespearean proportions—the slow but inevitable destruction

pories in wartime and written: the living cry. To be again themselves, or sleeping try To dream it is impossible to die? "Most of my books are now as though they had never been published... such a destiny would have been beyond contemplation in pre-publication days. Equally unforeseeable the stoic or perhaps blasé attitude of old age to this odd state of affairs." "I mean to be famous," young Tennyson wailed in fury at reviewers' attacks on his early work. This seems, alas, to be what Roy Fuller is wailing, only putting it in the past tense, I meant to be famous." But Tennyson didn't want to be Tennyson-and-Dickens. There will be many readers who take Fuller, seriously, at his face-value (the jaw-line sagging.) His advice to the young is, "work regularly: re-write; keep a journal, a commonplace book; indulge yourself with pens, notebook, typewriter for they will inspire when life has faded."

The Reign of Sparrows—though it does rely on notebooks—and indeed reading *The Times*, is evidence enough that life hasn't yet failed Roy Fuller, nor he, life, although the best poem in the book is in memory of the scholar Bonamy Dobson. It is a beautiful poem. The poet seems at his happiest in observing small things, birds in his low hall garden, or hearing his grandfather, or her flute practice, or getting his old car out: an excellent poem which gets him back to Rachmaninov and his own birth-year. Let him recall, perhaps he can, the old poet who wrote:

Though the great song return no more, There's keen delight in what we have... and that the word freed means joy.

Paul Barker

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Michael Ratcliffe

For its energy, compassion, rich and overwhelming sweep of character and action *The Honourable Schoolboy* was simply one of the finest English novels of the Seventies. Ironic, mournful and introspective, *Smiley's People* complements it beautifully.

Michael Ratcliffe in *The Times*

A marvellous book, stylishly written, intricate, absorbing... le Carré is a very gifted author indeed.

A. Alvarez in *The Observer*

Intensely gripping... the plot is finely worked and maintains suspense and uncertainty until the very end.

Tim Heald in *Now! Magazine*

John Coleman

A hugely ingenious and satisfying tale... the sharp skill is here, the tangy detail in set-pieces, the slow unravelling.

John Coleman in *The Sunday Times*

Smiley's People tells anybody who reads spy-fiction what most of them already know: that there is le Carré and there are his imitators.

Allan Prior in *The Daily Mail*

Probably le Carré's best novel... the book homes towards its climax with more tension than anything else he has written.

Melvin Bragg in *The Evening Standard*

LE CARRÉ

Smiley's People

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Hodder & Stoughton £5.95

Stock Exchange Prices

Equities drift lower

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Feb 11. Dealings End, Feb 22. § Contango Day, Feb 25. Settlement Day, March 3
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Bryant
Industrial
Construction
021 704 5111

Stock markets
FT Ind 458.3 down 3.5
FT Gtcs 65.96 unchanged

Sterling
\$ 22795 up 75 points
Index 72.5 up 0.2

Dollar
Index 85.7 down 0.1

Gold
\$ 627.5 down \$21

Money
3-mth sterling 17 1/2
3-mth Euro \$ 15 1/2
6-mth Euro \$ 15 1/2

IN BRIEF

Writs delay final 84p Rolls-Royce dividend

The final 84p net dividend per £1 ordinary stock planned by the liquidators of Rolls-Royce (Realisations) last October may not be forthcoming for three years. It could, however, be paid in one year.

The distribution was held up by writs issued against R.R. and others in connection with a Caravelle aircraft crash in 1976 in Bombay. A sum of 55p a share has already been paid. The liquidators think the claim is without merit.

Meanwhile the money involved stays on deposit earning 17 1/2 per cent, which pays for correspondence and upkeep of the share register.

Tung bid question

M.C.Y. Tung's Hongkong company, Oriental Cement Container, is apparently prepared to pay up to 500p a share for Furness Withy if the Monopolies Commission agrees. A move is being made to get the present 360p a share cash bid referred. A question has been asked on the subject by Mr John Nott, Secretary for Trade.

Armistice offer

Sir Rowland Wright, Blue Circle Industries chairman, says there is no reason why the group's £31m offer for Armistice-Shanks should be altered in any way. Ceramics Investments, with a 28 per cent stake, is refusing the offer. Armistice-Shanks has 51p, 95p, compared to the 99p offer price.

Vosper contract

Vosper Thornycroft (UK), part of the state-owned British Shipbuilders, has won a £4.5m contract to design and build a new boiler house for the Orreave Works of British Steel (Chemicals) at Sheffield.

Copper price tumbles

Selling by speculators forced copper prices down on the London Metal Exchange yesterday. Cash wire bars closed 55s down on the day at £1.215 per tonne and three-month futures were also 55s down at £1.232.50. Since last Friday the cash wire bar price has dropped £114 per tonne.

Companies Bill delays

The report stage of the Companies Bill will probably be next Tuesday and Wednesday and will immediately be followed by the third reading. The Bill's progress is likely to be hampered by its 400 amendments, 150 of which have been submitted by the Government.

British Steel accused

British Steel has been accused of mismanaging pay negotiations with 3,000 workers in its chemical subsidiary, Mr David Warburton, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, says that British Steel withdrew from the national negotiating machinery and sought to impose its own settlement. Talks are continuing.

Philippine order

Cryopumps, part of BOC International, has won a £2m order to supply an oxygen plant and nitrogen liquefier for a complex at Laguna, south of Manila, in the Philippines.

Earnings rise by 19.6 pc in full year to outstrip retail price index

By Caroline Atkinson
Pay rises appear to have accelerated and the average increase is set to rise sharply above last year's figure. In the year to December, average earnings went up by 19.6 per cent, according to official figures published yesterday. The January rise is likely to go over 20 per cent.

The figures were said in Whitehall to be a "dreadful warning to the country" and the Government is disappointed at the fact that wages have risen since it took office.

There is growing concern about the prospects for inflation in the coming months, given the rapid earnings rise. Ministers are keen to emphasize that big pay awards will lead to higher inflation and fewer jobs.

However, their message has clearly not got home to union wage bargainers, most of whom are anxious to ensure that their members get pay rises which at least keep up with the rate of inflation.

Earnings rises outstripped price rises in the year to December, because the retail price index climbed by 17.2 per cent. Most forecasters expect price inflation to reach 20 per cent this year.

There were two special factors pushing up the earnings rise in December, but even after taking account of these, the figures suggest that the underlying rate of wage increases has been creeping up steadily.

Back pay is thought to have boosted the annual earnings increase in December by about 2 per cent. On top of that, the figures have been affected by earlier settlements.

Last year many pay negotiations were delayed as people waited for the outcome of the Commons vote on the Labour Government's sanctions for breaches of pay policy, and to see the fact of that 5 per cent policy. This depressed earnings at the end of 1978 and so, raised the year-on-year change. It is thought to have added about 3 per cent of the December annual earnings rise.

The underlying level of earnings is thought to be just under 19 per cent in the 12 months to December. For the last three months of 1979, the underlying annual increases rose steadily from just under 17 per cent in October, to about 18 per cent in November, and then just under 19 per cent a month later.

According to figures released yesterday by the Confederation of British Industry, wage deals since August have ranged from 5 per cent to 32 per cent. Of 277 settlements, covering 800 manufacturers, more than two-thirds of the settlements are for less than 17 per cent and more than half for less than 15 per cent. But it is not clear how many workers are covered by the lower settlements.

January's figures will almost certainly look even worse than December's. Last year the index fell in January under the impact of the road haulage even if earnings remained unchanged between December, 1978, and last month, the year-on-year rate of increase would show a rise to more than 20 per cent.

This should probably come back down a little towards the end of the pay round, though latest Treasury forecasts for earnings are thought to predict a rise of nearly 20 per cent by the end of this summer.

The CBI awards for comparability in the public sector are expected to add about an extra 2 per cent to wages. Some of these are now coming into the index.

These figures cover about 21 million employees. The series is too new for seasonal adjustment, so the older narrower series covering about 11 million employees, mostly in production industries, gives a better guide to month-to-month movements in earnings. This showed a rise of 2 per cent in December, up from the November figure of 1.7 per cent.

As this series mostly covers private sector workers, it gives some indication of whether pay awards in the private and public sectors are diverging much. The year-on-year rise in December in the old series moved up to 19 per cent from 18.5 per cent in November. It suggests that private sector pay rises are running a little behind those in the public sector.

Kuwait cuts output by 25 pc

By Our Energy Correspondent

Kuwait has finally decided to cut its oil production by 25 per cent, from 4 million barrels a day from April 1.

Sheikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, the Kuwait oil minister, announced the government's decision on the eve of the meeting of the long term strategy committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which begins in London today. The level of supplies over coming years is the main item on the agenda.

Kuwait's decision is the first indication that the Opec members are going to cut back production to prevent their prices being eroded by a glut of oil.

On its own, it may not be sufficient to prevent production from running ahead of demand, but if Saudi Arabia through its output back from 9.5 million barrels a day to the preferred 8.5 million barrels, and other countries made small cuts, some of the potential glut would disappear.

The cutbacks may create problems for BP and Shell, whose contracts with Kuwait are coming up for renewal. BP buys 450,000 barrels a day and Shell 300,000 and for both the source of supply to their United Kingdom refineries after the North Sea. Both must now expect cuts and will have to make up the deficit from elsewhere.

Within Opec, production levels have always been regarded as being for individual markets to decide, but with prices having risen so sharply over the past 12 months, there is growing understanding that the common interest is to keep production to a level where prices are maintained.

Discussion within the long-term strategy committee will concentrate on a report which recommends ways of controlling prices in a stable manner.

The central idea is to link prices to quarterly changes in worldwide inflation and currency fluctuations, and then to raise them in line with percentage changes in the real growth in Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) gross national products.

It is agreed that this would be a fair way of moving into a world of greater energy shortages for both Opec and the industrialized world, but with member states still in disagreement over the importance of the chances of the long-term strategy committee's ideas being put into practice in the near future are nil.

Vosper plea to MPs over compensation

By Richard Allen

Vosper, the shipbuilding group, whose British yards were nationalized nearly three years ago, has appealed to its shareholders and all Conservative MPs for help in settling the group's long-running battle over compensation.

In the letter to shareholders, Sir John Rix, the Vosper chairman, repeats his threat that the group will take its case to the European Court of Human Rights if negotiations fail to achieve a satisfactory result.

A Vosper director said last night that the group was still hopeful that current negotiations would reach a fair outcome even though all offers so far from the Government had been completely unacceptable.

In the letter to MPs, Sir John reminds Conservatives of some of their criticisms of compensation terms when opposing the Labour Government's Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Act.

Vosper's Thornycroft warship yards represented assets of more than £25m when they were taken over in July 1977. So far the Government has offered £15m and the group has only received £1.4m by way of payment on account. Negotiations are complicated by the fact that under the terms of the 1977 Act, compensation must be based broadly on average stock market values before 1973 and 1974, a system, which was condemned by the Conservatives in opposition, had the effect of working to the advantage of certain groups whose yards were making losses at the time of nationalization, while working against groups like Vosper-Yarrow, and in the case of aerospace, Vickers and GEC.

Vosper-Thornycroft made £10.7m pre-tax profit last year—more than twice the compensation being offered.

As the group has yet to be reached on the compensation for the British Aircraft Corporation, on which former owners Vickers and GEC have placed a price-tag of £200m.

Meanwhile Yarrow in which Vosper has a 23 per cent stake is considering going to arbitration on its claim for compensation in the region of £15-£20m.

In his letter to shareholders, Sir John Rix says it is regrettable that the advent of a Conservative Government has not resulted in a satisfactory outcome and he urges shareholders to increase pressure by writing to MPs, including Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Industry.

Merger redundancies

Merger of City stockbrokers J. & A. Sprague and Kemp-Gee is expected to take place on April 1. Although the two firms originally claimed that there would be few redundancies it is now likely that around 100 of Sprague's 350 employees will have to go.

Truck sales up 10 pc

Commercial vehicle sales in Britain last month continued their upward trend, and at 24,090 were 10.2 per cent higher than a year earlier. Imports accounted for 23.6 per cent of sales against 21.42 per cent in January, 1979.

Lucas in £11m French acquisition

By Michael Prest

Thomson-Lucas, the French associate of Lucas Industries, has paid £11m for control of Bronzavia, a French manufacturer of aircraft components. The purchase is a significant step in Lucas's expansion of its European interests.

Bronzavia is a private company, made pretax profits of £1m in the year to the end of December. It will now be merged with Auxilux, another subsidiary of Thomson-Lucas which makes aerospace. The new Thomson-Lucas group will have a turnover of about £400m (£42.9m) a year. Lucas Industries made pretax profits of £70.7m in 1979.

Lucas Industries holds 49 per cent of Thomson-Lucas, the rest being in the hands of Thomson-Bronzavia, a major French electronics group. In his annual report to shareholders last December, Sir Bernard Scott, Lucas's chairman, said the group needed a larger European foothold.

Last night Lucas declined to say how much of Bronzavia the French associate holds, except that it is a controlling interest. Lucas confirmed, however, that Thomson-Lucas has an option, which may be exercised soon, to buy the remainder of Bronzavia on undisclosed terms. Bronzavia, which has two factories employing 1,200 people

MPs told of reactor safety 'unease'

By Nicholas Hirst

Sir Alan Cottrell, a former government chief scientific adviser and one of the most respected metallurgists in the United Kingdom, told a House of Commons select committee yesterday that the Department of Energy was wrong to go ahead with establishing the American-designed pressurised water reactor (PWR) for Britain's nuclear power needs.

Using the accident at Harrisburg in the United States last year to illustrate what he regarded as inherent weaknesses in the PWR reactor, Sir Alan told the Select Committee on Energy that he was "uneasy about the safety of the system."

His unease stemmed from the fact that cooling water was stored under pressure in a PWR to keep it from boiling. Any sudden loss of this coolant could result in a dangerous increase in water turning to steam, and operators having only a couple of minutes to make decisions.

With the British-designed advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) the gas retained its cooling properties during a leak and gave operators a longer time in which to react to an emergency.

Sir Alan's evidence, which was delivered in a low key, factual manner, backed up by a written memorandum, clearly impressed the MPs, who are bound to give it considerable

weight when they come to write their report on the British nuclear programme.

Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, committed Britain in a statement to Parliament last December, to building at least one PWR, providing the design passed safety criteria and a public inquiry. The statement also promised the building of nuclear power stations at the rate of about one a year for 10 years.

Sir Alan considered that it did not make sense in commercial terms to build one PWR unless a series were planned. It is generally understood that this is exactly what is intended.

The change from the British-designed AGR was, according to Sir Alan, unnecessary. It had many merits, was understood by British engineers and continued to be improved.

He refused, however, to be drawn into saying that it would be impossible to operate a PWR safely. His concern was with the possibility of potentially dangerous cracks forming in the essential pressure vessels which encased the radioactive core, the problems in tracing cracks when they occurred, and, in the event of disaster, the speed with which operators would be forced to react.

Cracks of tin in a pressure vessel would be difficult to detect by today's very high

standard of ultra-sonic testing, yet cracks so small could suddenly spread without warning, leading to a disintegration of the reactor and a possible disaster.

Cracks of tin had been found in French PWRs. These posed no safety dangers, but would do if they were to become larger. This could create an agonizing choice as the technology for mending cracks of one inch or more in a radioactive vessel was not yet available.

"Agreement would be faced with a most difficult decision", Sir Alan wrote in his memorandum, "either to take the chance of running the reactor knowing that it contained such cracks or to shut down the reactor at a fraction of its planned economic life."

Sir Alan believed that the scientific evidence he worked on was different to that used by Sir Walter Marshall, deputy chairman of United Kingdom Energy Authority, whose report on OWRs was favourable to their introduction.

Where the two men differed was on their assessments of the difficulties involved in the engineering and human elements in running the system. Sir Alan agreed with a common-sense view that running a PWR was comparable with the monitoring required in maintaining a large civil aircraft.

But before PWRs were built



Sir Alan Cottrell: Government would be wrong to go ahead with establishing PWRs.

in the United Kingdom he thought that all the recommendations proposed on safety in the Marshall report should be implemented. More advanced ultra-sonic crack testing should be developed so that operators could be certain, which they could not be at present, to detect all one-inch cracks, and that technologies to repair such cracks should be available.

US faces 'Herculean' energy challenge

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Feb 20

Meeting America's energy challenges would involve investment outlays on a scale and of a scope not seen since the United States launched the Marshall Plan after the Second World War, Mr William Miller, Secretary of the Treasury, said in a speech in Texas.

"The capital required will dwarf the Marshall Plan and the Apollo (space) programme combined", he said.

He would take at least 10 to 15 years for the United States to change its energy habits, and ensure the nation's security and economic vitality. Living standards in America would have to be cut in the short term and the energy transition would be "a Herculean undertaking".

Mr Miller said the United States needed "a massive and sustained" energy conservation effort and it must radically re-examine its transport system, its fuel-efficient cars and greatly expanded public transport networks.

He stressed that vast spending would have to be made to develop conventional and unconventional and renewable domestic energy sources.

The Department of Energy estimates that the domestic oil and gas industry would have to invest an annual average of \$25,000m to \$30,000m this decade on exploration, development and production, just to meet the industry's minimum supply projections. Some private estimates indicated the costs would be at least \$35,000m which compared with actual spending in 1978 of \$20,000m.

Coal industry investment would also have to surge dramatically. The Energy Department estimated annual spending would have to be between \$5,000m and \$6,000m this decade, compared with just \$2,400m in 1978.

Insurance policy against strikes may be organized by CBI

By Patricia Tisdall

Management Correspondent

Proposals to enable employers to insure against strikes were presented to the policy-making council of the Confederation of British Industry yesterday.

The proposals, which are the result of six months' work by a steering group led by Sir Alex Jarratt, are for a mutual fund administered by a CBI-sponsored company to offer insurance cover against the effects of strikes.

Detailed consultations start with regional CBI councils and with members from today. The results of this are due to be presented to the council in April and it will then be asked to take a final decision.

A controversial aspect of the scheme is that the fund should be located in an offshore tax haven, probably Guernsey. The group argued that the fund should be established in the Channel Islands to avoid the complexities which would otherwise delay the start well beyond the target date of this autumn.

Sir John Hedley Greenborough, the CBI president said yesterday that most of the 120

companies whose views have been sought prior to the council meeting had expressed interest. The fund would use participating companies' contributions if their operations were closed down as a result of industrial action by their own workers or as a result of action by those of another employer.

Cover would also be given if production was affected by the closure of a primary supplier or customer. The fund would cover standing charges for 50 days of non-working after the first seven days of closure.

By building in such limitations, the proposers believe that the fund would be a realistic alternative to a recent dispute could be afforded at acceptable premium levels. The only eventuality which could not be covered are a national strike affecting such services as water, gas and electricity.

Nationalized industries could not be members of the scheme but all other CBI members would be invited to join on a voluntary basis. The fact that it would operate across all industry sectors distinguishes

the CBI strike fund proposals from others such as that operated by the Engineering Employers' Federation, which is confined to a single industry. The premiums will be worked out to a complex formula depending on the size of the workforce, the location of the plant, the number of unions and past strike record.

Many companies are sceptical about the feasibility of such a scheme. Others are concerned that it may be regarded as provocative by trade unions. Industrialists are also extremely reluctant to subsidize companies which have ineffective labour relations and some would regard the fund as a charter for bad personnel management.

However, the prospects for getting the fund started have been helped enormously by the increase in secondary industrial disruption in recent years. The CBI looked at similar schemes in 1971 and again in 1975 but the problem had been getting enough employers with good industrial relations records to participate and spread the insurance risk.

EEC draft on company law rejected

By David Wood

Draft legislation on EEC company law prepared by the Commission eight years ago was thrown out by the legal affairs committee of the European Parliament meeting in Brussels yesterday.

The fifth company law directive, as the Commission's draft is known, in effect tried to impose a uniform German form of worker participation on company boards in the Community, envisaging a two-tier system with at least one third of the supervisory board appointed by the workers.

The Parliamentary committee's report, in the words of Mr Amédée Turner QC, spokesman for the British Democrats group, completely rewrites the text. It would allow unitary boards to continue in member countries that prefer them.

But it also proposes, to the liking of Britain, Italy, France, and other countries, to have a new institution analogous to a works council "elected by secret ballot" of "all employees". Such a body would have the right to consultation on closures and transfers of the whole or substantial parts of an undertaking and consultation on substantial changes or extension of activities, substantial organizational changes, or establishing long-term cooperation with other companies.

Into the shredder, page 21

Gold slides in wake of strong dollar

By Our Economics Staff

Gold fell sharply yesterday to its lowest level since early January. It closed down \$21 at \$627.5, after falling to just above \$600 earlier in the day.

The price has been undermined by the recent strengthening of the dollar, with higher American interest rates, and by the prospect of the release of the hostages in Iran. Selling was heaviest in New York. But dealers do not expect the level to fall below \$600 an ounce.

The dollar stayed fairly strong yesterday after its rise on Tuesday, despite the announcement in Switzerland of the relaxation of measures to keep money out of Swiss francs. The Swiss bank is now determined to bring inflation down below 5 per cent in 1980.

Interest rates were generally moving upwards yesterday in the wake of the sharp tightening of credit in the United States. In France, Belgium and Holland short term rates rose.

In Japan short term rates have risen sharply with the Bank of Japan cutting some markets up unofficially after the one point rise in the official discount rate on Monday. Three Japanese commercial banks raised their short term prime rates to 7 1/2 per cent.

Sterling did not suffer yesterday because of the erosion of its interest rate advantage. The rejection of a strike by British Leyland workers gave a boost to the pound early in the day and it closed 1 cent higher at \$2.2795 against the dollar.

Economic Notebook, page 21

THE POUND

Rises

Brent Chem Int	9p to 233p
Burmah Oil	5p to 222p
De Vere Hotels	5p to 222p
Hoechst	5p to 210p
James (Ecclest)	15p to 235p

Rises

Carpet Int	23p to 30p
Carroll Vty	13p to 16p
Gillett Bros	34p to 195p
Libanon	14c to 52 1/2
Messina Trans	16p to 210p

Rises

Middle Wits	30p to 460p
MMH Eds	22p to 100p
Platinum	12p to 110p
Rio Tinto Zinc	20p to 438p
W Rand Cons	50p to 815p

PRICE CHANGES

	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	30.00	26.00	Norway Kr	11.50	11.00
Austria Sch	30.00	26.00	Portugal Esc	109.50	105.50
Belgium Fr	69.00	65.50	South Africa Rd	1.95	1.95
Canada \$	2.69	2.62	Spain Ptas	156.25	149.25
Denmark Kr	12.83	12.28	Sweden Kr	9.80	9.40
Finland Mk	8.80	8.40	Switzerland Fr	3.30	3.28
France F	9.60	9.20	US \$	2.33	2.27
Germany DM	4.16	3.94	Yugoslavia Dnr	54.00	50.00
Greece Dr	89.50	84.50			
Hongkong \$	11.55	10.95			
Iceland Pk	1.11	1.07			
Italy Lir	1940.00	1850.00			
Japan Yen	581.00	556.00			
Netherlands Gld	4.57	4.34			

Tough line to make sure market-related prices are paid for new finds

Government set to step on the gas corporation

The Government is determined that British Gas should pay market-related prices for any new gas finds in the North Sea to revitalize exploration and development.

Oil companies report that the corporation has been showing greater willingness to pay higher prices which will guarantee an acceptable return on new finds, in contrast to the contracts signed more than 10 years ago which the companies have complained were so mean that further exploration was stifled.

It is unlikely that Shell, as a leader of a four-company consortium, would be developing a new southern

North Sea gas field unless it was confident of receiving a price for its gas far closer to the oil price equivalent than has been available from British Gas in the past.

But should the corporation waver, the Government is fully prepared to force it to follow the Conservative philosophy on energy policy that wherever possible, the market should act as decision maker. The move to pricing at oil-related levels has already been established in sales by British Gas to industry.

It is logical, ministers believe, that if British Gas charges market rates to the consumer, it should also pay them to the developers, the oil companies.

This amounts to a significant change in policy from the previous administration and will be widely welcomed by the oil industry which, with demand for gas rising, will have every incentive for new exploration and to develop smaller accumulations already discovered.

The greater profits made by the companies will, unlike profits from contracts on the early fields, be subject to petroleum revenue tax. This, the Government argues, will recoup the "economic rent" to which the country is entitled and at present is received in the profits of British Gas.

New gas production from the North Sea is urgently sought to meet the increasing proportion of United Kingdom energy re-

quirements which Department of Energy projections suggest will occur over the next decade.

The increased cost of oil has made gas production ever more profitable. The Department of Energy is likely to sanction the building of a controversial £1,000m pipeline scheme to gather associated gas from northern North Sea oilfields, and British Gas is in competition to gain new supplies from Norwegian fields.

New finds or developments in the southern North Sea basin could serve to lessen Britain's dependence on imported supplies, either from Norway or outside the European continent.

Nicholas Hirst

DAEJAN HOLDINGS LIMITED

INTERIM STATEMENT
Unaudited Results for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1979

	6 months to 30/9/79 £'000	6 months to 30/9/78 £'000
Rental Income and Charges Receivable, less Property Outgoings	2,468	1,905
Surplus on Sales of Properties	3,279	3,977
Other Income	146	101
Financing Charges and Other Expenses	5,893	5,983
Exceptional provision for Property Outgoings	2,963	2,833
Group Profit before Taxation	2,930	2,150
Less Taxation	1,050	945
Less Minority Interests	10	10
Earnings per Share	11.49p	7.33p
An interim dividend of 1.225p per share (1978-1.1725p—same gross payment) will be paid on 28th March, 1980, to shareholders registered on 29th February, 1980. For the full year to March, 1980, it is expected that profits before taxation and before special provisions will be at a similar level to those achieved in the previous year.		

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Carrington counts the cost of imports

Carrington Viyella's profits for 1979 look bad enough on an historic cost basis; on a current cost basis they would look a good deal worse. For instance the dividend, which has been more than halved to the point at which the 6.9 per cent yield at 16p is more than twice covered by reported earnings, would almost certainly not be covered on any reasonable assumptions on the replacement cost of assets.

But then, Carrington Viyella is not alone. Where the company does differ from most of the rest of British industry is in its very high dependence on a home market vulnerable to imports—and particularly imports from the "Mediterranean associates" over whose trade activities the EEC has very little control. Hence two of last year's four closures, which in all cost £2.4m above the line, and another £1.7m expenses on liquidation plus the loss on disposal of the Italian subsidiary Carrington-Testi) below it.

In consequence of these losses, and of the 42 per cent increase in interest charges to £8.37m, though profits on a comparable basis are down by a mere £500,000 at the trading level, at the attributable level they amount to only £4.5m as against £10.92m.

The expenses of closure have helped send short term borrowings sharply higher; but working capital requirements should decline this year, and since capital spending too has been slashed, apart from seasonal fluctuations it is unlikely that gearing will rise much above the 52 per cent recorded at the year end. This implies that CV will survive; but are there any signs that it will flourish?

In several areas—notably outerwear and Dorma—Carrington Viyella in fact did well last year, thanks very largely to a policy of going up-market to beat the competition. Conditions are likely to be even less favourable this year than they were last—which in part explains the decision to slash the dividend; but given elimination of last year's closure costs the company should be able to produce pre-tax profits comparable to the £3.5m of 1979. That, however, doesn't leave much room for an improvement in the dividend in the short term. Anybody buying Carrington Viyella for recovery is likely to have to wait a long time for it.

Discount house

The experience of Gillett

It has not taken long for last month's speculative interest in discount houses to die away and the sector had another thin time yesterday despite the stronger tone of gilt-edged on hopes that containment of the PSBR to below £9,000m next year could provide the Chancellor with more scope to allow interest rates to fall.

Inevitably, Gillett had the hardest time with its shares sliding 34p to 150p. No one of course has been expecting other than grisly results from houses with year-ends coming soon after last November's 3 point MLR rise.

Alexanders' after tax loss last month even after transfers from reserves was a grim reminder of the exposure to losses of those houses which, unlike Union Discount, decided to chance their arm on a fall in rates. So Gillett's halved after tax profits of £111,000, again after transfer from its hidden reserves, were no worse than feared.

What was not expected, especially after Alexanders' decision to pay an uncovered dividend, was Gillett's two-thirds cut in the final "to maintain resources".

With profit comparisons between the house made difficult by inadequate disclosure, dividend growth has become the main yardstick for judging their relative merit and with Gillett's overall dividend falling from 25.3p to 15p a share gross the 7.9 per cent yield is still slightly below par for the sector.

Wrong-footed by the rise in MLR, Gillett has also not gained much benefit from being one of the most diversified of the houses. The important Kirkland Whittaker money broking side has had its contribution cut by start-up costs in New York and Bahrain while the difficulties of building up the fund management division launched only two years ago has forced the group to cut its losses there as well.

At the moment discount houses are making useful running margins thanks to the

high yield on commercial bills although Gillett, as also Union shows in its annual report, has almost withdrawn from the sterling and dollar certificates of deposit market.

So far as gilt-edged goes, the houses are only using the market for trading opportunities. Both Gillett and Union are taking a very cautious stance about the course of interest rates this year. Judging by the size of their respective balance-sheets both are almost fully invested although that is largely due to the rapid growth of acceptances as a result of the corset restrictions. But the bill book is still short—£5 days at Gillett and 40 at Union—and the houses will not easily fall again for any false trail laid by the authorities over interest rates. It is still too early to think about buying the shares.

W. H. Smith

Financing Christmas

On the face of it, W. H. Smith's explanation for asking shareholders to authorize an increase in borrowing limits is straightforward enough. The group is invariably awash with cash—£22m at the last balance sheet—but in the run-up to the crucial Christmas trading period inflation has meant that stock financing has pushed short-term borrowings ever closer to the group's limit under existing articles.

At the moment the ceiling dictated by share capital is around £43m and Smith wants to switch to a more normal limit equal to 14 times capital and reserves which would currently allow borrowings of up to £313m.

The market, however, took the cynical view, waging that Smith is limbering up for further expansion following the £12m cash takeover of LCP Homocentres last spring, and lopped 9p from the shares at 151p as a gesture.

Smith says another takeover is out of the question although the suspicion lingers that it may be no bad thing for the group to keep its options open at the moment.

Facing saturation at home, the group's much-heralded invasion of Scotland may not amount to much unless Smith could run Menzies out of the High Street while LCP may not have quite enough muscle as yet to make a real splash in the increasingly competitive DIY business.

As a sweetener to preference holders Smith intends to raise the coupons from 4.9 per cent to 5.75 per cent, 3.15 per cent to 3.75 per cent and 4.25 per cent to 4.75 per cent, respectively. Such is current gearing that additional financing costs will be a mere £6,000 a year.

Racal's share price fell by 5p to 211p yesterday when the market received a sharp reminder that the institutions and other large Decca shareholders whose irrevocable acceptances of Racal's offer won the day over GEC last week did not guarantee to take Racal paper.

Racal paid out £3.5m earlier this week for the block representing just over 8 per cent of Decca's ordinary capital owned by the Dimenstein. The price of 600p a share still compares unfavourably with the paper offer now worth 633p a share, but other Decca shareholders will be watching the performance of Racal's share price and trying to gauge its performance over the next year as it digests Decca in coming to their decision about whether to take cash or equity.

At this stage, though, Racal has to remain fairly relaxed. Even if there is a heavy call on its cash alternative—which would be funded internally and through bank finance—it can reckon on releasing a fair amount of cash from Decca early on.

The sale of the television business and the successful outcome of a patent claim in the United States courts (which Decca stands a good chance of winning) could alone yield almost £30m, representing around half Decca's debt.

Still, Racal is going to end up rather more highly geared than has been the case in the past. If all Decca shareholders took cash it would be around 60 per cent geared, and a bullish profits forecast from Racal in the offer document should convince many Decca shareholders that Racal remains a good medium to long term investment.

Economic notebook

Can Britain buck the interest rate trend?

We have been living with ultra high nominal interest rates for some time in the United Kingdom. It has taken a dreadfully long time for those rates to make any impact on the private sector's appetite for credit, but there does at last seem to be signs that the pips are finally starting to squeak.

Certainly, the overall bank lending figures hardly seem to confirm this so far, but banks are now reporting a marked deceleration in the rate of increase in personal sector loan demand. If that trend is sustained, it should not be too long before manufacturers start to de-stock and run down what is extremely costly borrowing.

But while the Government may be hoping that it will be able to offer the prospect of some fall in interest rates later this spring, or certainly by early summer, interest rates overseas appear to have started off on a new round of increases.

Rates in the United States look set to test the peaks established last autumn. Rates have also been rising in Japan and across Europe. How long or how far the new round of increases is likely to go remains to be seen.

But if the principal determinant in all this is going to be American resolution to bring the dollar supply under some semblance of control, then there are likely to be some distinctly uncomfortable months ahead.

The emphasis placed by various countries on the motives for raising their interest rates of late has varied. In some cases the emphasis clearly has been on curbing domestic credit expansion in the face of rising rates of inflation. In others, the latest round in oil prices being a common factor here, of course, albeit that the degree of impact varies considerably.

In other cases, the emphasis has also been on attempts to forestall capital outflows to more remunerative havens, thus helping to stabilize the exchange rate and reduce the impact of the rising costs of imported raw materials.

Whatever the emphasis, however, the effect of policies are pursued with vigour, is going to be a reduction in credit growth and, unless substantially offset by sharply higher fiscal deficits (and these seem to be less fashionable since the 1973 round of oil price increases) a fairly sharp fall in real money supplies.

The key of course is the resolution of the governments concerned to pursue high interest rate policies as far as possible. Given that this would in effect mean acknowledging the need to pay for oil in currency that maintained its purchasing power, the implications for deficits in real resources are, indeed, painful.

US resolve over monetary policy

So painful, in fact, are the implications that the very thought is enough to bring an immediate feeling of reassurance even to those who have paid rather more than the present price for gold.

But, though the gold hoarders may, there does appear to be a new determination about monetary policy in the United States, and there must be at least some grounds for thinking that the election year and political pressures to "ease off" will be mounting, that the Fed would be seriously discredited were it once again felt to be starting to relax too soon.

If that is the case, then the

present monetary growth targets which are undeniably tight, strongly suggest that interest rates are going to have to stay high in the United States for more than just a matter of weeks. And so long as that is the case, then interest rates are not going to come tumbling down especially quickly in Europe, Japan or here.

Where does all this leave Britain? For once it may be that we will not have to move quite so closely in line with other countries. That may sound like good news, but it would be wrong to pretend that lower interest rates can be achieved here without some penalties which will not be especially pleasant in the short term.

The reasons for believing the United Kingdom rates should start to come down ahead of other rates are twofold.

The first is that the economy, in spite of the momentum that has been sustained by high rates of increase in pay, looks to be moving into recession rather earlier in the international cycle than usual.

Slowdown in private sector loan demand

The second is that in the face of mounting discomfort with the present level of interest rates, the Chancellor appears to be making fresh efforts to ensure that the public sector's borrowing requirements for the coming financial year show no rise in nominal terms on the likely output for the present year of around £9,000m.

Given the probability that private sector loan demand should be rising less fast as the recession starts to bite, that should leave room for some fall in interest rates.

How great a fall will depend on two further factors, however. One will be the degree to which the Chancellor indicates he may wish further to tighten his monetary growth targets. The other will be the general response of financial markets to the Budget speech and the success the Government has in securing its new funding programme.

All this does, of course, ignore one further factor, namely flows across the exchanges, the exchange rate and all the related matters.

During the recent period of strong credit demand and high exchange rates there has been strong evidence of a fall in sterling. This has not been comfortable for exporters or for domestic manufacturers competing with foreign imports.

The Government has lived with this pressure to a large degree—though smoothing has tended to become more like straight intervention on some occasions—in the belief that domestic monetary policy must take priority. It might even have felt that the high exchange rate would take the edge off inflationary pressures, though its thinking on the short-run balance between inflation and competitiveness has never been all that clear.

But what happens next? If the domestic demand for money starts rising at a lower rate and interest rates fall, will money start to flow overseas in substantial quantities? Will that depress the exchange rate and raise inflation? Or will the Government's firm disinflationary line instead increase the confidence of overseas investors in the United Kingdom currency and tend to drive the exchange rate higher? The Chancellor appears to hope for a neutral effect. We shall see.

John Whitmore

Worker participation: the fifth directive goes into the shredder

David Wood describes how members of the European Parliament said no to two-tier boards

Eight years ago the EEC Commission in Brussels adopted what was called the fifth company law directive on worker participation. Under the old nominated European parliament it was the responsibility of the Council of Ministers for approval and soon it might have become company law throughout the EEC. But yesterday the legal affairs committee of the new directly elected parliament threw the directive into a shredder.

Instead, it carried a report intended to make sure that the British, French and Italian right and centre members of the European Parliament over the West Germans, who wanted to see their own system of two-tier boards adopted, and over continental socialists and communists who wanted to see more power to the workers' elbow.

The Dutch, who have broadly adopted the West German system, showed where they stood yet were ready to compromise. But the victory is not yet complete. By all accounts, the West German officials who first framed the directive have not since the struggle. The MEPs who carried a complete redraft believe that the Commission will still stand by their original document and present it to the Council of Ministers during the summer in spite of the European Parliament.

If they do, the legal affairs committee will submit its redraft direct to the Council of Ministers and make absolutely clear where majority feeling in the Parliament lies.

Origination with able and (it is being said "stiff-necked") German officials of the Commission, the fifth company law directive tried to steamroller through the German form of worker participation. That is, a supervisory board with at least of the supervisory board appointed from the workers' side. Apart from Holland, no other Community country enforces such a system. The British Report on Industrial Democracy published in 1977, specifically rejected the West German model for Britain.

Nobody questions the merits of West German industrial relations or that workers' participation works well there. What is questioned is whether the German system could be superimposed upon countries with different industrial and trade union histories and structures.

The fight against adoption of the directive at the first meeting of the legal affairs committee of the elected European Parliament was a bitter one. Mr Turner and his friends answer that the Commission's proposal stands little chance of being acceptable to the full Council of Ministers, whereas the parliamentary compromise does. He hopes that the United Kingdom particularly will welcome the legal affairs committee's handywork: "It will bring into British industrial relations a new factor at a crucial time. It is the only positive thing now being done, politically speaking. Everything else is a patching up operation."

The difference is that the works council, probably to the dismay of some trade unions and some environmentalists, would be elected by secret ballot by all employees.

Long-distance rig hopping

A helicopter which will be able to fly direct from Aberdeen to the most distant North Sea oil fields—Cormorant, Thistle, Magnus, Dunan and Brent—is beginning to take shape in an aerospace factory in Philadelphia.

The 44-seat Boeing Vertol Chinook, model 234LR, will more than double the range of this existing largest helicopter over North Sea work when it comes into operation for Shell Expro in 1981.

Oilmen going to work in this area today are flown by fixed-wing aircraft from Aberdeen to Sumburgh, in the Shetlands, where they transfer to helicopters for the journey out to the rig.

For the workers the advantages of the new generation of big helicopters are obvious. If Boeing Vertol's claims are substantiated in service, they will not have to change aircraft and the Chinook will be faster and quieter—even will have in-flight entertainment through stereo headphones.

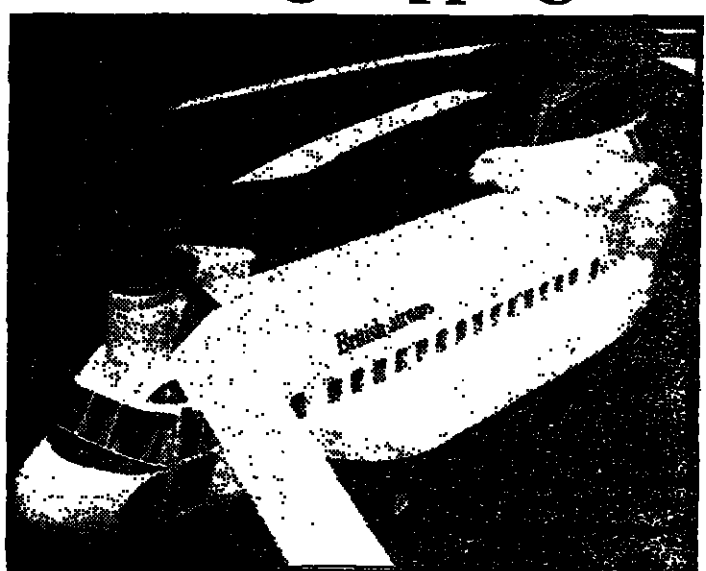
The Chinook is a lot more expensive to operate than the biggest helicopter over the North Sea at present—the Sikorsky 60N. The rate for each flight hour for the Chinook is reputedly more than twice as much as for the Sikorsky 60N.

But the Boeing can shift almost twice as many men, or twice as much equipment, and with its longer range can avoid the aerial traffic jams which are being built up in the area. These are becoming particularly bad around Aberdeen and Sumburgh. The Civil Aviation Authority has spent more than £30m over the past five years on improving air traffic control to keep pace with the growth of traffic. Last year there were 48,000 aircraft movements at Sumburgh, catering for a total of 625,000 passengers.

Under the terms of the contract between British Airways Helicopters and Shell Expro, the first three of six Chinooks which BAH has ordered will be delivered by the end of the year. The first is due to be delivered from Aberdeen to the Brent Field. Boeing estimates that there are about 18,000 men working in the North Sea fields at any one time.

Aviation industry figures suggest that there are around 130 helicopters of all sizes worth £120m plying for trade over the North Sea, with a further 50 on order. BAH is the first customer (British Helicopters have also ordered five) for the 234 LR civil version Chinook, which is based on a military helicopter of the same name, some 1,000 of which have been produced.

Vertol executives in Philadelphia see a world market of up to 260 for their product, most of them in support of the oil industry. The same means, say, a helicopter already hauling logs out of otherwise inaccessible sites in Canada, and as the search for



A model of the Boeing Chinook: double the range of helicopters at present on North Sea runs.

natural resources takes the prospectors further and further away from the centres of civilization, a long-distance helicopter should come increasingly into its own.

Boeing sees growing pressure from the environmental lobby which will result in power stations—and particularly nuclear power stations—being built in more remote areas than in the past. This will result in longer transmission lines and towers; these installations could be built and serviced from Chinooks without hacking roads out of virgin countryside.

The same pressure will prevent townships from being built close to new mineral excavations and helicopters, so the Boeing reasoning goes, will be ideal for flying in the miners from their homes perhaps hundreds of miles away.

In oil exploration, as the oil price goes up, it will become economically feasible to drill more distant oil fields. The distances will be ideal work for the civil Chinooks.

Boeing Vertol has had serious talks with BAH about the possibility of city-centre to city-centre passenger operations with the helicopter. This service could be undertaken by a 70-seater version of the machine. Fixed-wing aircraft in the airlines raise sceptical eyebrows at such a plan, but with airports becoming saturated, new sites impossible to find, and the cost of "traditional" aviation rising fast, it would be a brave aerospace crystal-ball gazer who dismissed it out of hand.

Captain Jack Cameron, managing director of BAH, has long promoted the idea of city-centre services between London and Paris, and Brussels and Amsterdam. Journeys would take two hours, compared with four hours today. The higher cost of helicopter flying is likely to become progressively less important than the prob-

lem of overcoming environmental objections.

BAH's studies centre around a helicopter site in the derelict East India docks. Flights from the point along the river might just escape the environmental lobby's ire, especially if aerodynamic improvements, such as rotor blades made from composite materials instead of metal, are included.

So far, British aviation electronics and equipment firms have taken up around £10m worth of these contracts. Boeing executives say that they have had difficulty in finding British equipment at the right price and delivery date.

At the Paris Air Show last June the Boeing teams went round the British industry stands imploring companies to bid so that the offset proportion in the deal could be attained.

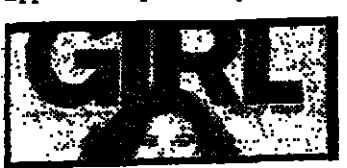
Vertol is anxious to update the civil Chinook, but not at any cost, and there are plenty of companies in its own country anxious to supply. Meanwhile, Vertol is incorporating its own technological advances. Rotor blade construction is moving rapidly from the use of metal to composite material, enabling a better aerodynamic rotary wing shape to be produced, thus saving fuel.

Arthur Reed

Business Diary: Glossy rivals • Sixes, sevens and eight

London's railway stations are about to witness a circulation war in one of publishing's most lucrative areas.

Involved under various guises are Associated Newspapers, owners of the Daily Mail and the Evening News; the Irish Independent Group of Tony O'Reilly, president of Heinz and tipped to replace Roy Jenkins



at the EEC Commission; and an anonymous consortium whose new publication will be unveiled to commuters on Monday morning.

The battleground is the free women's magazine, pioneered in London by the Irish Group's Ms London nine years ago. Associated followed suit a year later with Girl About Town, to be handed out free at Tube and other London railway stations.

Both have managed to attract a hefty slice of job advertisements away from the two London evening papers. The profitability of the glossy giveaways is secret, but there is no doubt that Associated make a good deal more money from Girl than from the Evening News.



Consumerism, which the Secretary for Trade complains is "rampant" in Britain, is just getting its first foothold in China.

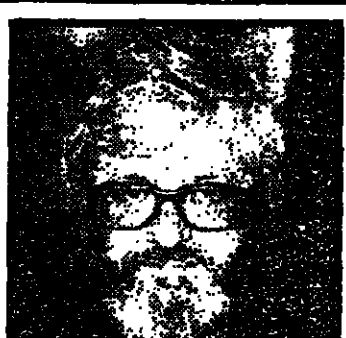
David Trench, the legal officer of the Consumers' Association, has just returned from a consumerists' expedition into the Chinese mainland. He reports that in Peking he actually watched a dissatisfied customer complaining vociferously about an item he had been sold—and getting it replaced.

He was also able to interview the general manager of the Peking Number One department store ("the nearest we got to Chairman Hua"), who said that anything his shop found difficult to sell would be modified, moved to other shops or, as a last resort, cut in price.

That, Trench says, puts the Chinese halfway towards the free play of market forces. But, most telling of all, it is

the prospect of a competitor arising from a defection of advertising staff from Ms London, has stiffened both the existing publications. Ms London has added a midweek edition, the first of which comes out today. Girl is to embark upon an expensive advertising campaign, which will use television and promotions to "sell" it, even though it is being given away free.

The newcomer's name is being kept a secret, with many advertising agencies merely acknowledging that they have booked space with a new publication to appear on Monday. But I expect it to be called Metro, as in Mini Metro, BL's



David Trench

the Chinese who have supplied the most appealing alternative to the appalling word "customer". Their version of it translates literally as "money spending person".

Trench dreams of the defence that would greet him if he travelled in future as representative of the Money Spending Persons' Association.

potential saviour to be launched next October.

That too, will be launched into a difficult market, and perhaps a little late.

Paul Shewell, of accountants Coopers & Lybrand, could be forgiven for feeling a touch of deja vu when he looks over the books of troubled toy group Dumble-Combe-Marx. Shewell was appointed receiver of Dumble on Tuesday, some 10 years almost to the day after he went in to a similar job at Linn's Brothers. One of his first jobs there was to sell the Hornby trains, Scalextric and Sindy doll lines to the then up-and-coming Dumble.

The construction industry has been at sixes and sevens in recent weeks because of the threat of further cuts in its public sector workload.

This has been especially—and alarmingly—true of the so-called Group of Eight, the industry pressure group comprising union, employer and professional representatives.

Last summer, the eight became seven when Les Wood, general secretary of the 348,000-strong Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, walked out. The immediate cause was said to be hostility towards direct labour payments from ministers.

No sooner had industry pundits started talking broadly of the "Magnificent Seven" (from there we can guess the seven might become six), George Henderson, of the Transport and General Workers, was said to be growing impatient at the lack of progress made at talks with ministers whose policies he strongly opposed.

But Henderson stayed and, what is more, Wood has now been persuaded to rejoin the group after a formal invitation from Bryan Jefferson, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects. In letters released by Ucat, Jefferson calls for all hands to the pump during the "critical" weeks ahead.

Wood says that he has decided to come back in the light of government policy which now threatens substantial job losses. "He odds, rather pointedly," he does not think anyone of us would want to witness a situation arising in construction similar to that which we have seen in the steel industry."

After eight years in the hot seat at Abbey Life, Britain's oldest and largest property bond (and now other things) group, chairman and managing director Fred Richardson has been elevated to senior vice-president of Abbey's parent organization, Hartford Insurance Group.

Translating the American title into English, Canadian Richardson will become managing director of one of the world's twenty largest life offices—which, not surprisingly, he finds "extremely challenging and tremendously exciting." As he has become a committed Anglophile, however, there are bound to be a few regrets about leaving Poole, in six months' time, for Connecticut.

Richardson reckons that American financial institutions are going through a difficult phase, because of unprecendented inflation, with which they are not well placed to cope.

"Black Bob" Scholey, the British Steel Corporation's chief executive, has printed an open invitation to striking steelworkers to "drop him" line with their views on BSC's pay offer. The invitation is in a four-page bulletin distributed to the workforce yesterday.

Whether this last-ditch effort to influence rank and file opinion will work remains to be seen, but I feel sure that Scholey has guaranteed himself a colourful post for the next few weeks.

David Hewson

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Leyland vote fails to give a lift to equities

Dealers were quick to pounce on the good news from British Leyland yesterday, but it was not enough to help share prices, which continued to languish.

Gilt on the other hand, made a better showing, despite Tuesday's blip in the United States prime rate, and managed in most cases to hold on to their gains on the day.

But elsewhere, the news was again one of boredom with very little buying, and where there was, it was usually in connection with bid stock or specialist situations.

The news around mid-morning that Leyland workers had voted overwhelmingly to reject a strike call for the reinstatement of Mr Derek Robinson looked at first to be the chance the market had waited all week for. But in the event, although sentiment improved, it did little for equities in general, which after a firmer appearance fell away again on lack of follow-through.

Gilt made a better start as buyers entered the market encouraged by reports in the morning press of a lower set of PSBR figures. Prices moved ahead throughout the list further encouraged by the statement on interest rates from the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe. But a shortage of stock late in the afternoon saw demand gradually fade.

Longs, after witnessing rises of about £1, soon eased to be up £1 while at the shorter end advances of between £1 to £2 were maintained.

With turnover already described as "low", equities had but one route to take following the news that Wall Street had

taken another turn for the worse as trading resumed in New York. As a result the FT Index finished at its lowest

Intriguing times for B. Paradise, whose shares have risen from 8p to 32p in the past 12 months following a 29 per cent stake taken by R. & J. Pullman. Mr Maurice Hope, Pullman's chairman, said last night: "There are some interesting plans afoot but I can say nothing more at the moment. They will be sooner rather than later". Paradise closed at 28p, while Pullman, whose interim figures are due today, firmed to a new peak of 50p.

point of the day 3.5 down at 453.3.

Nevertheless, dealers were quick to point out that without the Leyland news the position might have been considerably worse.

Leading industrials were mostly tumbling 8p to 39p ahead of figures next week.

Profit-taking clipped 5p from Pilkington Bros at 225p after some earlier investment interest in falls of 4p were noted in Glaxo at 242p and Hawker Siddeley at 174p. Setbacks of around 2p were also reported in Fisons at 282p, Bechman at 124p and Unilever at 453p.

Disappointing figures and a cut in the dividend knocked Gillet Bros 34p to 190p among discount houses and in turn did little for sentiment in the rest of the financial sector.

Union Discount slipped 10p to 368p with Clive Discount 1p easier at 71p.

The four major clearing banks were also on offer ahead of the reporting season, which starts on Friday, as rumours began to circulate that Lloyds may be planning a rights issue. This prompted falls of 12p in Lloyds at 288p, 10p in National Westminster at 360p, while Midland at 363p and Barclays at 443p were both 7p lower.

On the takeover front Furness Withy remained firm at 368p amid fears that the bid from C. Y. Tung may be re-

ferred not to be Monopolies Commission. This followed a question being asked in parliament by Mr John Smith, opposition trade spokesman. An answer is expected on Monday.

Elsewhere in shipping, Stag Line slipped 5p to 175p on price taking on driving in a thin market lifted Louis Newmark 18p to 330p.

On returning from suspension, shares of Henry Norrington climbed 6p to 215p following the agreement to buy from Frederick K. Burgess, but Armitage Shanks retreated 5p to 951p amid fears that the bid from Blue Circle, 6p off at 288p, was about to fail.

Bid hopes also lifted De Vere Hotels 5p to 223p while R. & J. Pullman improved 1p to 50p, a new high, on acquisition news and ahead of today's profits announcement.

Further reflection of Drake & Scull's recent trading state ment helped it to a 41p rise at 46p. Sir Monty Finniston has joined the board. Buyers were also active in the shares of Ernest Jones (Jewellers)

which climbed 19p to 235p also following recent figures.

Profit takers moved quickly into electricity yesterday as the shares showed signs of contracting, along with the remainder of the market. Rascal finished the session 5p off at 211p with GEC 3p lower.

The view is hardening that if and when the March & MacLennan formal bid for C. T. Bowring is made, the Office of Fair Trading will refer it to the Monopolies Commission. United States brokers are just as fearful as those in the United Kingdom of the combined might of Marshall-Bowing and a nationalisation of the airline.

Oil shares had another relatively firm performance boosted by persistent takeover gossip. BP closed unchanged at 402p and Shell rose 2p to 316p. Hopes of a takeover by Ultramar 4p higher at 496p, pushed Burnial 5p better to 222p although most market men are now beginning to discount the rumours. Among second liners Aram Energy contrasted between 230p and 5400p a year. At the same time, ECGD is losing money on its small premium business, which is subsidised by the bigger contracts insured.

Equity turnover on February 19 was £86,047m (13,994 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were: RTZ, Shell, Charter Consolidated, ICI, Western Mining, BP, North Kaiguri, Consolidated Gold Fields, BICC, GEC and Rascal.

Bid expected as furniture group is suspended

By Rosemary Unsworth

Henderson-Kenton, the furniture retailer whose shares were suspended yesterday at 118p, is expected to receive an agreed takeover offer from Harris Queensway, the carpet and household furniture retailer which went public 16 months ago.

The bid, which is likely to be announced within the next 24 hours, is to be around the £13m mark. Henderson-Kenton's market capitalization at the suspension price is £7.5m, but its asset backing per share is 200.

Harris Queensway will have to obtain the board's agreement for the merger as 50 per cent of the group's shares are effectively held by the directors and their families.

Henderson has 70 branches throughout Britain, which will double Harris Queensway's furniture outlets, acquired last year when Harris took over Hardy & Co for £28.5m, £16m of which was recouped by property sales and the disposal of the two-property interests.

Henderson-Kenton was hit by the increase in VAT at its interim stage, when pretax profits fell back by 28 per cent to £437,000, on a 9 per cent increase in turnover to £13.3m.

At the time, Mr David Hyman said that the full year's results would not match last year's profits of £2m, although trade improved during the January sales.

Harris Queensway showed a profits jump at the halfway stage to June 23, 1979, from £2.3m to £4m, and is expected to produce full year profits of £9m.

Anglia Television on target with profits of £2.7m

By Peter Wainwright

Anglia Television Group, the IBA contractor for the East of England and producer of "Survival" and "The Unexpected", surprised no one with its annual figures yesterday. The shares rested at 67p.

Against market forecasts of around £2.6m Anglia reports pre-tax profits of £2.7m compared with £3.6m on a turnover only slightly down from £20.3m to £19.3m. Exchequer levy fell from £3.1m to £1m.

However, tax also fell sharply, from £1.87m to £1.19m so the fall in profits after tax was a modest £206,000. That left them at £1.5m, more than enough to cope with dividends costing £472,000 again £415,000. This represents a rise in gross distribution a share from 4.63p to 5.1p.

Anglia operates in one of the fastest growing regions, but it had the bad luck to be the only contractor with an October year-end (Trident was almost a year earlier) and a financial year ending in September. So Anglia had no chance to recover from the 11-week August-October ITV stoppage.

The group reports expansion in programme making capacity and the sale of programme did a lot for turnover abroad which totalled £1.96m. Non-television profits also rose (associates went up from £264,000 to £338,000) a testimony to interests in fizzy drinks and housing.

Outside observers suspect that Anglia, with all its recovery from the ITV strike



Lord Townshend, chairman of Anglia Television.

to fall into this year, and advertising increasing month by month, is capable of making £3.5m. The group itself says that "the results for the current year should return to a more satisfactory level".

The group worry, clearly, is what happens to advertising as business recession makes itself felt.

Anglia is one of the purest of the IBA contractors, but the industry rates it to be one of the strongest places when the ITV franchises come up for renewal. Its finances are strong and the dividend is well protected. It is therefore a favourite broking recommendation.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Anglia TV (F)	19,320,303	2,735,600	11,391,922	2,011,753	28,3	3,573,141
Anglo-African Fin (F)	3,271,000	1,571,599	0,751,075	15/5	0,751,075	0,751,075
Anglo-African (F)	10,182,577	1,051,155	3,212,263	18/4	3,812,581	3,812,581
Bertrams (F)	3,412,265	0,080,005	3,621,136	—	—	—
Carr Vignola (F)	312,826	8,514,571	3,181,568	0,411,688	18/4	1,123,255
Debenhams (F)	—	2,912,133	11,497,733	2,011,753	2/3	—
Fitzwilliam (F)	—	0,710,688	—	0,011,817	—	—
For & Col Ind (F)	—	6,385,523	3,262,234	1,951,168	8/4	2,992,268
Gillet Bros (F)	—	0,112,021	—	3,511,025	10,107,107	—
Hammer (F)	—	1,981,381	—	2,712,211	4,383,011	—
Utd Real Prop (F)	—	0,867,721	—	1,251,125	10/4	—
U.S. Debenature (F)	—	6,575,041b	—	2,782,230	27/5	5,581,051

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To estimate the net dividend, divide the gross dividend by 1.25. a=adjusted for scrip issue; b=figures for both years are gross revenue; c=disclosed profits, after tax.

Options

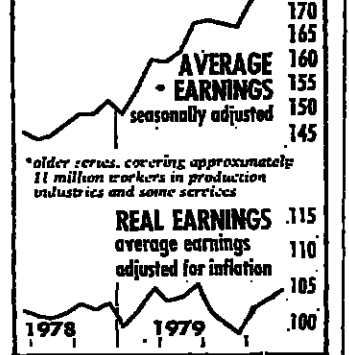
Dealers were disappointed with the volume of business seen on expiry day yesterday, describing it as the quietest expiry session so far encountered. Total contracts rose from 498 to 958, which was mainly bolstered by the usual "cabinet" business which appears at this time.

Rascal proved popular, with 239 contracts of which the expiring February 240p series attracted 195.

The two large mining finance houses managed to attract 258 contracts between them.

A slightly higher volume was witnessed in traditional options where mining shares dominated.

Puts were arranged in Dunlop, RTZ and De Beers, while doubles were completed in British Land, Burnham and Cans Gold.



Gillett Brothers Discount Company Limited

Preliminary Results

The directors of Gillett Brothers Discount Co. Ltd. announce the results (subject to audit) for the year ended 31st January, 1980.

	1980	1979
Group balance for the year after tax and transfer from contingencies (1979 group profit after tax and transfer to contingencies)	110,666	212,932
Balance brought forward	226,825	482,456
Dividends paid and proposed	337,491	695,388
Balance carried forward	292,574	468,563
	£44,917	£226,825

In order to help maintain the company's resources so as to be in a position to benefit from any future decline in interest rates the directors propose a final dividend of 3.5% (5% gross). Together with the interim dividend paid in August last of 7% gross (10% gross) this amounts to a total of 10.5% (15% gross) for the year. Dividends paid in the previous year were an interim of 6.7% (10% gross) and a final of 10.251% (15.3% gross).

The following are the main items shown by the balance sheet.

	1980	1979
Total capital and published reserves	4,455,696	4,637,604
Bills discounted	164,666,272	192,658,085
Sterling and dollar certificates of deposit and currency instruments	3,407,448	11,415,717
Listed investments	12,809,172	8,052,374
Goodwill less amounts written off	400,000	500,000
Contingent liability on commercial bills rediscounted	103,303,000	46,411,000

PORTALS HOLDINGS

Portals Holdings' water treatment division, through a newly formed United States subsidiary, Portals Water Treatment Inc., has completed the acquisition of the Chicago, US \$2.2m, Wright Chemical Corporation. Wright is a leading supplier of specialty chemicals for water treatment throughout the United States.

DAEJIAN HOLDINGS

Pretax profits for half-year to September 30, £2.53m (£2.15m). Board expects year's pretax profits, after special provisions, to be similar to previous year.

MARTIN, THE NEWSAGENT

Chairman told annual meeting that retail sales (excluding VAT) for first 19 weeks of current year show an increase of 11 per cent over last year.

FOREIGN & COLONIAL

Total revenue of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust for 1979, £10,133m (£8,241m). Pretax revenue, £5,866m (£5,233m). Total gross dividend raised from equivalent of 3.2p to 4.21p.

ANGLO-AFRICAN FINANCE

Turnover for half-year to 19, 1979, £3,271,000 (for previous year). Pretax profit, £200,000 (£205,000). Gross dividend unchanged at 1.07p.

MID KENT WATER

Mid Kent Water's offer for sale by tender of £5m, 9 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1985, was under-subscribed; underwriters will be required to take up 98.88 per cent of stock. Brokers: Seymour, Pierce.

BROCKHOUSE

Brockhouse is to buy from Booker McConnell, product lines, trading name and certain assets of Eppo Ltd, subsidiary of Booker McConnell, a cash price which will not exceed £1.1m.

CARPET COMPANY RUNS DOWN

Mr Alan Water's offer for sale by tender of £5m, 9 per cent redeemable preference stock, 1985, was under-subscribed; underwriters will be required to take up 98.88 per cent of stock. Brokers: Seymour, Pierce.

ROMNEY TRUST

Pretax revenue for 1979 up from £1.39m to £1.98m. Total gross dividend raised from 4.47p to 6.27p.

US DEBENTURE

Gross revenue of United States Debenture Corporation for year to January 31 rose from £3.04m to £6.57m. Net revenue, £3.81m (£2.75m). Total dividend, gross, is being lifted from 5.85p to 7.97p.

UNITED REAL PROPERTY

Pretax revenue of United Real Property Trust for half-year to October 5, £862,000 (£778,000).

RETAINED PROFITS

Retained profits last year jumped from £42,000 to £227,000, which has improved the balance sheet. The company has overdrafts are down £100,000.

Two months ago the group bought the production assets of Bavis, a specialist frame maker, from its receiver for an undisclosed sum and the group has nine months of forward orders.

Bayer-Agfa

The West German chemical firm Bayer has taken a controlling share in the Belgian photographic producer Agfa-Gevaert.

Bayer poured more than £100m into the Belgian company and increased its stake

ECGD scheme fails

A scheme run by the Export Credits Guarantee Department insuring overseas investment against political risk has not been effective, the department's top official admitted yesterday. Answering questions before the Commons Select Committee for Industry and Trade, Mr Kenneth Taylor, secretary and accounting officer to the ECGD, said demand for the service had not met expectations.

But he also said that recent changes putting the whole responsibility for buyer credit financing on to the banks will eventually save the Exchequer £240m over a five-year period. At the same time, ECGD is losing money on its small premium business, which is subsidised by the bigger contracts insured.

Answering ECGD official, Mr D. C. Smith, revealed that losses on the one-bank guarantee facility, whose premiums are to be doubled on April 1, could be as high as £10m.

United News purchase

United Newspapers is to pay £1.5m for J. Andrew & Company, publishers of a total of 14 weekly newspaper titles around Ashton-under-Lyne.

The transaction is being paid for by the issue of £200,000 UN shares and £200,000 cash. UN shares closed unchanged at 366p last night.

The acquisition is expected to contribute about £150,000 to pretax profits in a full year, and the net asset value at December 1978 was about £425,000. Andrew is to continue under its present management and with its present staff.

UN figures for the year to December are due in March, but at the half-way stage profits were up from £3.65m to £4.27m and Lord Barnetson, the chairman, estimated profits for the first 37 weeks of the year to be standing at £5.53m.

Success of Atcost continues

By Philip Robinson
Atcost Holdings, the Kent-based structural frame maker for industry and agriculture, continues to rise from the ashes of Ronnie Lyons' former property empire which crashed with debts of £50m.

Yesterday the chairman, Mr Peter Down, unveiled pre-tax profits of 25 per cent, or £383,000 despite a virtually doubled interest charge at £251,000.

It was almost two years ago that six directors raised £800,000 to acquire control of the former Lyons' agricultural empire, which the National Coal Board Pension Fund now has a 42 per cent stake.

Retained profits last year jumped from £42,000 to £227,000, which has improved the balance sheet. The company has overdrafts are down £100,000.

Two months ago the group bought the production assets of Bavis, a specialist frame maker, from its receiver for an undisclosed sum and the group has nine months of forward orders.

Bayer poured more than £100m into the Belgian company and increased its stake

VFW-Messerschmitt

The long-heralded concentration of the German aerospace industry may be facing an unexpected obstacle in the newly-awakened interest of United Technologies Corp of the United States to keep or even expand its stake in the industry.

The announcement earlier this month of an agreement between the West German VFW and the Dutch Fokker to end their 10-year-old joint venture, seemed to pave the way for the German plan to merge Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blom (MBB), take over VFW and create a strong national aerospace company on the British and French models.

But United Technologies, an aggressively expansive firm, with operations in jet engines and helicopters, has made it known officially and unofficially that it is not interested in relinquishing its 25 per cent share in VFW. Moreover, the American company has called attention to the long-forgotten clause giving UTC right of first refusal on any sale of shares by the Krupp concern, which has a 35.2 per cent stake in VFW.

So intertwined are the political and business interests that German Economics Minister Herr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, currently visiting the United States, was expected to discuss the matter on Wednesday in what is billed as a private visit to former NATO commander Alexander

Hain, the newly appointed president of UTC.

The game plan following the successful separation of VFW from its Dutch partner, was for the city of Bremen, which has a 26.4 per cent stake in the firm, to buy up the remaining family interest as well as the UTC and Krupp shares to sell MBB against assurances about the future of VFW operations in Bremen.

UTC spokesman at the European headquarters in Brussels reiterated the United States firm's support for a merger of VFW and MBB—but then, of course, UTC would have a shareholding in the unified company. While this would foster transatlantic cooperation, the Munich-based MBB is decidedly cool about the idea. For some time, MBB has been in the process of making a name for itself in the aerospace industry a statement which would make UTC's option on the Krupp shares a moot point.

The parties appear to be agreed still that a union of MBB and VFW is desirable. But the very diversity of ownership—the state governments of Hamburg and

Roche Plant returns after six years

By Philip Robinson

Roche Plant Group, whose name has been changed twice since its shares were suspended six years ago, returns to the Stock Exchange today, listed under Rule 163 (2), and plans to go for a full quote in the spring.

The shares went out in 1973 when the group was called Webb-Nash—leaving the 450 holders of the group's 4.2 million shares locked in at 74p.

Dealers reckon trading will start in the 28p to 32p range, comparable with the trading price before it was chased up prior to suspension on take-over hopes.

The men who brought Roche back to the market are 44-year-old chartered surveyor Mr John Chiswell and chartered accountant Mr Gordon Wilson, aged 36. They took over around 1976

and between them have turned the former engineering company, whose profits plunged from £90,000 to a loss of £34,000 in 1971, into an industrial concern which last year showed a 1.6 per cent profit rise to £209,000 and is believed to be aiming for £300,000 this year.

The duo have paid a 25 per cent increased net dividend of 1.25p, the second payout to shareholders since 1972.

Trouble for the group started when Webb-Nash which earned the bulk of profits as a subcontractor for Rolls Royce saw an end to the business disappear.

An attempt was made to turn it into a investment company by brothers David and Malcolm Burns, who also changed the name to Roche Securities, but by 1975 Mr Chiswell had been brought in and the group made a takeover for Conveyor Truck Services (Holdings).

Mr D. H. Taylor, managing director of Fenchurch Life and Pensions Consultants, has been appointed to the board of Fenchurch Insurance Holdings.

Electrolux, the Swedish manufacturer of domestic appliances and industrial products, is launching a drive to sell more of its stock in the United Kingdom. Profit from current income before taxes, is estimated at £92m in 1979 compared with £72.5m in 1978.

The company has grown rapidly since 1968. Acquisitions have averaged one every six weeks, and assets stand at about £987m. But now Electrolux has reached the limit of raising finance on the small Swedish stock market, and needs to offer shares elsewhere.

About 10 per cent of sales, estimated to total £1,500m in 1979, are in Britain. Turnover in this country has grown six times over the last decade. Mr Hans Werthen, Electrolux's executive chairman, says he has great confidence in the United Kingdom, pointing out that 30 per cent of output is exported.

Recent Issues

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 17%
Barclays Bank 17%
BCCI Bank 17%
Consolidated Credit 17%
C. Hoare & Co 17%
Lloyds Bank 17%
London Mercantile 17%
Midland Bank 17%
Nat Westminster 17%
Paribas 17%
RBS 17%
Williams and Glyn's 17%

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Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Cleland House, Page St., London SW1P 4ND. Telephone: (01) 211 7987. (Closing date for receipt of applications 31st March 1980). Applications are welcome from both men and women.

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VOGUE MAGAZINE

MERCHANDISE ASSISTANT

Wanted to check with manufacturers and retailers on fashion and beauty merchandise information for publication in Vogue. Lively young, intelligent person with good typing skills and pleasant telephone manner to join small team. Might suit college leaver.

Please ring June Widdicombe on:

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£4,500

Famous Company in West

End dealer with textiles and

fashion needs a young

secretary to work for

the head of press and

publicity. An energetic

person with initiative,

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publicity would be a

superb addition to

this exciting team.

A good education and

secretarial skills of 100 short-

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-Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

P.A. with financial flair

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We are looking for a P.A./Secretary for our Financial Director, someone who has more than just first class secretarial skills. You also have exceptional personal qualities of tact, diplomacy and organisational ability, together with experience and interest in financial matters.

Duties will include co-ordinating the submission of weekly, monthly and quarterly accounts to the Financial Director and organising lunches, dinners and visitors' programmes. Additionally you will be responsible for monitoring the daily cash flow, investing surplus funds and realising cash when required.

This is a highly demanding but extremely rewarding position. The Observer is one of Fleet Street's most innovative and forward thinking newspapers and if you become part of our exciting development plans you will have a great deal to look forward to.

If you match up to our requirements, contact Miss Jan Kruk, 250 Personnel Department, The Observer, 5 St. Andrews Hill, London, EC4V 5JA. Tel. 01-256 0202 ext. 225.

THE OBSERVER

LEGAL SECRETARIES

Oyex Recruitment, leading Recruitment Consultants to the Legal Profession, now deals with Legal Secretaries and P.A.s.

If you are looking for a high quality job, c. £5,000 with lots of responsibility, then contact Anita Rendell for a confidential interview.

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EAST LONDON COMPANY c£5,000+ CAR

Sec./P.A., 25 years, required for deputy chairman of expanding company. The successful applicant will have sound secretarial experience and the ability to work on their initiative. They will need poise and confidence and be able to communicate well with all levels of management. Although ordinarily normal office hours will apply, a degree of flexibility must be present as there will be occasions when late working will be necessary. Salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position, £5,000 - company car. For further details phone 987 2066 and ask for Mr. F. C. Willocks.

P.A. £5,500++ (guaranteed bonus)

Senior Partner at well-known Stockbrokers seeks self-motivated Secretary/Secretary. The person appointed will be a highly experienced and confident individual with a proven track record in a similar position. The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties, including the management of the company's confidential partnership matters, recruitment of staff and all personal and confidential work. For an appointment please call in confidence.

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10 New Bond Street, London, W1.

P.R./ADVERTISING/ MARKETING MR. HARLEY ST.

We are a P.R. Advertising/Marketing Consultancy and are looking for a Secretary to work at Director level in our comfortable office near Harley St., W1. You will find the work interesting and varied with lots of scope, accurate shorthand and typing and ability to liaise with clients. Essential! Would suit person mid-20s and upwards. Salary negotiable. If you are interested in joining our small friendly team, contact Miss McCurdy 01-486 3399 for further information.

MAYFAIR

Senior Secretary and Administrative Assistant is needed for this prestigious property company in Mayfair. If you want the involvement of a confidential company work and the benefits of a friendly hard working atmosphere and you are a diligent Secretary with excellent skills please call Linda Henderson.

SENIOR SECRETARIES
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SENIOR SHORTHAND-TYPIST

This top salary is being offered for a competent, efficient shorthand-typist, aged between 25-35, to work for the Chairman and Finance Director of a highly successful public company. Pleasant working conditions in small head office. Successful applicant must be able to demonstrate flexibility and must hold a driving licence. Good references are required.

Telephone 01-493 0812 and ask for the Company Secretary.

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Organise and entertain clients at exhibitions in various parts of England, Scotland, Wales and Europe.

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P.A./SECRETARY, 27+

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

male or female

to a private company. Will command a high salary, being a well-qualified, highly efficient person to work in elegant surroundings.

phone contact 581 0186 or 581 0188 or 581 0420.

MIDDLE EAST YOUR TALENTS... OUR OPENINGS

Sales girls and executive secretaries wanted for the largest furniture showroom in Abu Dhabi. Basic salary DR 3,500 a month, approximately £5,000 per annum (tax free), free furnished accommodation and free air ticket annually. French or Arabic as a second language would be an additional asset.

Please write with details to: The Shuaa Group, PO Box 6766, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

SECRETARY P.A. FOR CHAIRMAN (SOUTH BEDFORDSHIRE)

Our clients are an International Engineering Company. They wish to appoint a high grade Secretary/P.A. for a busy Chairman.

The terms and conditions of employment will be first class. Salary will be commensurate with the responsibilities of this important post.

Generous assistance with relocation will be paid by the company if required.

Please send your details to:
Chief Executive,
Aline Recruitment Consultants,
Aldison Chambers,
High Street,
Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Exceptional person needed to organise our new office. To be Personal Assistant to the Managing Director and look after all office services. Must be friendly, efficient and very presentable. This is a new computer company marketing services to the legal profession. Great chance to join a young successful company with tremendous career opportunity.

Please write or call:—
PENNY HOLLAND

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4/5 Bell Yard, London WC2A 2JR
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FOOD AND WINE

£5,000
A leading W.I. hotel needs an experienced Secretary Assistant to manage everything from the front of house to the back of house. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the hotel and will be required to handle a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties. The position offers a great opportunity for career advancement and a competitive salary.

SENIOR SECRETARIES
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GERMAN WITH MORTGAGE

Do you have reasonably fluent German? Do you enjoy working at executive level? Are you a good shorthand-typist as well as an administrator? If so, you are in your 20s, there is a position for you in this international bank. 25,000 neg. 588 7521 (24 hours)

Personnel
Appointments

P.A. Aged 25+

With excellent secretarial skills needed to work with Director of fast expanding medical research organisation. Responsible position requiring maturity, initiative, discretion and ability to assist Director at top level. In friendly WCI offices. Hard work but rewarding for the right person. Salary from 25,000 and LVS. Ring Janet Yerke on 01-405 0101

SECRETARY WORTH £6,000

We are a small organisation specialising in advising companies on the appointment of non-executive directors. There are lots of us at present and we are looking for a further member of the team to help run the office, situated in the West End. The work is varied and interesting and needs a bright, well-organised person with good secretarial skills. For further details please ring Jennifer Macpherson on 580 7387.

Secretary Administrator

required by Architects to run a busy practice. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the practice and will be required to handle a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties. The position offers a great opportunity for career advancement and a competitive salary.

Salary £5,500.
Please telephone:
Ruth Letcher
278 5455

PRIVATE SECRETARY

Managing Director of public company requires efficient private secretary to assist in his commercial and domestic responsibilities. Driving licence essential. Address: Mayfair Belgravia. Substantial salary offered.

Tel: 489 5967.

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We are looking for an enthusiastic person with a flair for business and people who can take advantage of our management career prospects and be happy to assume responsibility. An extensive training is provided. Salary is determined by age and experience with regular reviews. You'll be dealing with people at all levels so a sense of humour helps.

If you are enterprising and looking for a challenge which will utilise your commercial experience and have accurate typing skills. Call Neil Stewart on 444 0355

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Our persons can help you personally with our rather unusual service. We will find the sort of top job requiring a personable person with personal assistant skills and personal initiative. It's the job you've always wanted - it's the coffee - so's the welcome!

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We are a large International Advertising Agency in Mayfair and are seeking an intelligent Secretary/P.A. with initiative and excellent admin. ability to work with one of our creative directors. If you are looking for a new career with increasing job involvement, we offer a lively working environment, food and wine bar and company shop. For further details please telephone Helen Bryant, 629 9496.

SHORT HOURS. FREE LUNCH AND £5,000

A marvellous opportunity to join a booming industry, assisting 2 senior executives of City International Company. The many advantages include hours of 10 a.m.-5.30 p.m., Excellent 3-course lunch and pleasant surroundings. For this you must have good shorthand and the ability to run their office during many overseas business trips. Ring Linda Kean 01-493 0082.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Recruitment Consultants
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EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

with really accurate shorthand and typing required to work for School Secretary. This is the administrative and clerical position in the School. There will also be opportunity to assist in the running of the School. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the school and will be required to handle a wide range of administrative and secretarial duties. The position offers a great opportunity for career advancement and a competitive salary.

Director's Deputy £5,500+

'Director's Deputy' means just what it says because, although you will need excellent administrative and organisational skills, this job is largely an administrative and clerical one. You'll work from very attractive offices off Sloane Square, taking responsibility, arranging conferences and making decisions. Preferred age 25-35.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Recruitment Consultants
01-493 0082 - 01-493 5907

BOOKKEEPER/ SECRETARY Circa £6,000

This highly successful investment company in Victoria needs someone to work for the Financial Controller. Your prime responsibility will be to assist in the running of the company and you will also be called upon to do occasional secretarial work (shorthand/typing). Elegant offices. Age 25-35.

Crone Corkill

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MAYFAIR £5,500+

Client, flexible young secretary 21-25 for sales director of TV company. Must have potential to liaise at executive level.

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CONSULTANTS

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you attractive and successful career

PERFECTIVE

P.A. to Head of Specialists Operations £5,750 plus fringe benefits

This really is a job for a professional. Someone who seeks responsibility and accepts that a high level of commitment is expected.

The job function is not only to provide a confidential secretarial service to the highest standard but also to liaise regularly with all management throughout the group, co-ordinate their various activities, arrange meetings and take minutes. There will also be a lot of client contact and telephone work. The ability to use a calculator is necessary, as you will collate management information from time to time. The location is the group's new prestige head office in Regent's Street. Tel. Mollie Routledge, Alfred Marks Bureau, Adla House, 84-86 Regent St., W.1. 437 7855.

PA/CO-PILOT FOR CHAIRMAN

Personal Assistant/Co-pilot for chairman of international company engaged in designing, manufacturing and retailing textiles and home furnishing products. Appointee must be free to travel worldwide, and to base mainly in France and the United States. Flying experience must include twin rating and IMC (private or commercial categories). Education: University, good English and preferably commercial experience in either marketing or accountancy. Handwritten replies with full c.v. to: Box 0653 F, The Times.

NEW HORIZONS

48 BROMPTON ROAD,
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW3.
TEL: 01-584-4223

TROUBLESHOOTING EXECUTIVE W1 needs an equally alert Sec/P.A. to be his right hand; sound admin. and a good sense of humour will make you an integral part of this fast moving international offshore group. £5,600 + BENEFITS

AGE 25+

DYNAMIC YOUNG MEN/CHANCE MANAGER offers a competent Secretary, 21+, the opportunity to really get involved, gain from total secretarial duties, be happy to delegate if you can accept responsibility and sort out priorities. £6,750 + ANNUAL BONUS

CITY

YOUNG AUDIO SECRETARY required for busy W1 Consultants. The work is interesting and varied, the environment friendly. £5,300 + BENEFITS

EARLY 20's

Recruitment Consultants

SENIOR SECRETARY/PA

£5,500-£6,000
The director of a progressive and active trade association requires a Secretary P.A. with full secretarial skills and fast accurate shorthand and typing. A good command of English, with a pleasant telephone manner is essential.

It will be an integral part of the work to meet and mix with all management levels of member companies staff, and liaise with the association's advisers. Meetings regularly to be arranged and the director and his secretary together provide a secretarial service to the members.

This position will appeal to those who prefer to work in a small organization and can demonstrate self-motivation with minimal supervision. Lower age limit likely to be about 26 years.

Holidays—1 weeks. LVS, pension scheme and accident insurance.

Please write to The Director, Aluminium Window Association, 26 Stone Street, WCI1 1HT and giving if possible a day and/or evening telephone contact number.

Secretary to Financial Director

Beecham Pharmaceuticals is renowned worldwide for the production and marketing of a range of prescription medicines. The Financial Director of our International Division is currently looking for a Secretary to assist him at our Head Office in Brentford, Middlesex.

The position requires excellent secretarial and administrative skills most probably acquired by several years' senior secretarial experience. Applicants must have the tact and discretion to deal with confidential matters and to be able to work with people at all levels of seniority.

An appropriate first class salary will be offered, together with excellent on-site facilities including: free car park, a choice of staff restaurants, mini supermarket, medical services, sports and social amenities, as well as free life assurance and non-contributory pension scheme.

Please telephone or write to: Mrs. R. E. Danbury, Personnel Manager, International Division, Beecham Pharmaceuticals, Beecham House, Great West Road, Brentford, Middx. Tel. 01-580 5151 ext. 3420.

SENIOR SECRETARY/P.A.

A Senior Secretary/P.A. is required for the Managing Director of a large Advertising Agency based in Covent Garden.

Responsibilities will include liaising with clients, supervising a team of Secretaries and arranging various social activities connected with the Agency.

Irreproachable Secretarial skills and an eye for detail are essential. Preference will be given to applicants over 30 who are looking for a long term interesting assignment.

Salary will be according to experience, but will not be less than £5,500 per annum.

Please telephone for interview:—
Mr. Charles Hayward
on 01-579 7383

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE REQUIRES

TWO PERSONAL ASSISTANTS

One for our Administrator and the other for the Head of our Publications Department. Both these posts are varied and interesting and a high standard of secretarial skills (shorthand essential) is required. Salary up to £5,075 + £200 London weighting p.a. Superannuation scheme and subsidised dining room. 5 weeks annual leave. Further details and application form from the Personnel Office, NCSS, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3HU. Tel. 01-638 4066. Closing date 3rd March.

SECRETARY

For Consultant Mr. Oxford Circus

This is an interesting and varied position for an intelligent and reliable secretary with a good telephone manner who can keep their boss on the straight and narrow. Conditions are first class—self correcting typewriter, access to w.p. machine, good salary, bonus, LVS, 4 weeks' holiday.

Phone Mr. Gordon NOW on 636 1160 or (home) 389 0926



That February 14th was St. Valentine's Day is unlikely to have escaped your notice.

But perhaps only the most passionate know that this year, hot upon Cupid's heels, follows a day of even rarer romantic potential.

For February 29th is Leap Year Day and, as the ardent will be aware, roles are traditionally reversed.

So that the fairer sex are at liberty to loudly declare their love.

Happy to publicize such proposals, The Times is planning a special Leap Year Lovers feature.

A golden opportunity to promote your passion (discreetly, of course) or indeed to respond to the cryptic communication your

loved one will have undoubtedly placed in our St. Valentine's Day feature. Or not—which in itself demands a response!

Riposte, rebuttal, reassurance or promise of reward, all are welcome within, of course, the bounds of propriety.

So preserve your traditional right of reply and complete the coupon below.

Minimum size for your message is two lines (allow 28 characters including word spaces per line), cost £2.75 per line.

Send the coupon with cheque or postal order made out to Times Newspapers Ltd. (to reach us not later than February 27th) to:

The ASA Department, 4th Floor, The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Place your message here (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

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